

Letter bombs put Thatcher aides on alert

Yard's fears of IRA terror campaign

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Reporter

Hundreds of senior civil servants were put on a bomb alert last night after the discovery of two IRA letter bombs posted to the homes of two of Mrs Thatcher's top officials.

The families of Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press officer, and of Mr Brian Unwin, head of the economic secretariat in the Cabinet Office, became suspicious when the letters arrived at their homes yesterday.

They called the police, who detonated the devices without injury.

The IRA later in the day claimed responsibility for sending the letter bombs, in what security chiefs believe could be the renewal of a terror tactic which had been virtually dropped by the IRA during the 1980s.

Last night Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said: "There is a general warning to everyone, particularly those in the public eye, to be extremely

careful to check mail." Detectives are waiting to see if the letters are the first of a rash of devices.

Each of the two letters delivered to Mrs Thatcher's aides bore a rubber stamped motto in one corner which read: "University of Ulster Students Union University of Ulster". But the union, in Coleraine, said that it had not used that type of rubber stamp for more than two years. Police said the postmarks were not decipherable.

The addresses on each of the letters was copied exactly from the *Who's Who* entries on both men. The letter to Mr Ingham carried his Purley postcode, shown in *Who's Who*, and the letter to Mr Unwin did not, and was not given in *Who's Who*.

The first device to be discovered arrived at Mr Unwin's home in Epsom. His son thought there was something odd about the brown envelope, with its Ulster motto, and the police were called.

The device intended for Mr Ingham was found by his wife who called the police. Mr Bernard Ingham said last night: "My understanding is

that this package, identified as coming from Ulster, arrived at my home at about noon with the post. My wife was suspicious of it and saw that inside was a package wrapped up with sticky tape."

"She put it on the steps in the garden and dialled 999. The police came and dealt with it. I gather there was a controlled explosion, in other words it was an explosive device."

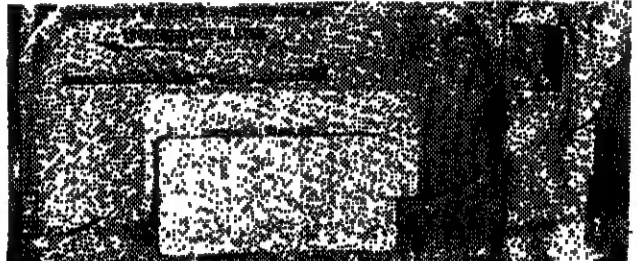
The letters appeared the day after a veteran IRA quartermaster, Michael McKenny, was jailed for 16 years at the Central Criminal Court. In previous letter bomb attacks, the IRA has posted letters from the Continent or mainland Britain.

Most of the recent attempted letter bomb attacks in Britain have been crude affairs linked to tiny Scottish or English groups. The last one was in July 1986 when a small device was sent to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

Student demonstrators: The students' union at the University of Ulster last night said it unreservedly condemned the use of its name on the letter bombs sent to the homes of the two civil servants (Richard Ford writes).

They said they were totally opposed to such actions.

The students have been on Easter holiday since last Friday. The linking of the university with terrorist activity is the second blow within a month, after the killing of a prison instructor and two RUC detectives by the IRA at the university's Magee Campus in Londonderry.



The Ingham letter bomb photographed at Scotland Yard.



Captain David Lewry, in charge of the ferry when she sank, and his wife at Canterbury.

Zeebrugge dead are mourned

By Ruth Gledhill

The nation mourned those lost in the Zeebrugge ferry disaster in a moving hour-long service at Canterbury Cathedral yesterday.

Relatives and survivors wept as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, speaking of acts of heroism during the sinking of the ferry, said: "Even in the darkest moment at Zeebrugge there were rays of light."

He said: "Our whole nation joins today with those who were rescued at Zeebrugge, in admiration and gratitude for all who saved life at sea, or brought kindness and comfort on land."

More than 1,800 mourners, including about 350 survivors and 700 close relatives, sat in silence as the Archbishop listed some of the life-saving acts of heroism that took place during the last moments of the stricken *Herald of Free Enterprise*, which took less than a minute to topple onto its port side on March 6.

"I think of the seaman who found that his diving gear was obstructing his search. So he discarded it and stayed down in the dark until he found three lorry drivers, trapped alive in an air pocket."

"I think of the passenger with spinal injuries carrying his baby daughter to safety in his teeth. I think of the four men trapped in lower decks taking turns to hold above water the head of an elderly woman."

Continued on page 24, col 1

Shevardnadze and Shultz hopeful of early missiles deal

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, last night concluded a crucial three-day visit to the Soviet Union on a surprisingly optimistic note with a claim that a final agreement on a deal to eliminate all medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe was now "close at hand".

In a separate verdict on the exhaustive series of talks, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet opposite number, also said progress had been made.

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and that although more work was still needed, the elusive medium-range missile accord could now be reached before the end of the year.

The up-bet claims of both foreign ministers have raised hopes for a new superpower summit before the end of 1987, as Mr Mikhail Gorbachev has made plain that his main condition for accepting President Reagan's new invitation to visit Washington is that a medium-range missile deal should be ready for signing when he arrives.

If the optimism expressed on both sides last night is realized, the pact - which would leave superpowers with 100 medium-range missiles each based respectively in Asia and the United States - would be the first arms control

agreement signed by the Soviet Union and the US for nearly a decade.

Mr Shultz confirmed that, earlier in the day, the Soviet Union had formally made a new offer to underpin any medium-range missile deal with a proposal that all shorter-range missile systems - including battlefield nuclear weapons - with a range as low as 90 miles should be eliminated over a period of 12 months.

Mr Shultz was meticulously careful not to commit himself in advance on the new Soviet initiative before his urgent consultations with Nato leaders, which begin in Brussels this morning.

Despite yesterday's optimism about the imminence of a medium-range missile deal, both Mr Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze separately admitted that their talks had made little headway in the wider areas of strategic nuclear weaponry and space defences.

The Soviet Foreign Minister, although acknowledging that he and his US counterpart had reached "a degree of mutual understanding on a series of questions", said it was now considered unlikely that Moscow and Washington could achieve a treaty in either of these broader disarmament fields before President Reagan leaves office.

The Europeans and Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, will vehemently oppose the "denuclearization" of Europe, arguing that it must retain its nuclear credibility, even though Nato itself first proposed the "zero-zero" option.

Nato welcomes the prospect of a third superpower summit and still seeks a "zero-zero" Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) agreement, officials said, but the Europeans want clarification of the strings attached to the short-range offer. Lord Carrington takes the view that Nato must

Saunders asset freeze remains

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, yesterday failed in his attempt to have a court order freezing his assets lifted.

The judge, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, ruled that the order must stand since there was a "strong possibility" that Mr Saunders, who is in Switzerland at present, would dissipate his assets or remove them from the country.

He also labelled the alleged agreement between Mr Saunders and Mr Thomas Ward, a Guinness director, to pay Mr Ward £5.2 million for services he provided during the Distillers bid as "void" and "unlawful" because it had not been disclosed to the Guinness board.

Guinness has challenged this agreement and obtained a court order freezing the British assets of Mr Saunders and Mr Ward up to the value of £5.2 million as a prelude to bringing a full case to recover the money.

The five-day hearing has been characterized by strongly conflicting evidence from all sides. The judge repeatedly pointed out that he was not deciding who was telling the truth.

At the centre of the dispute are conflicting sworn statements detailing Mr Saunders' involvement in the Distillers takeover provided by Mr Saunders and Mr Oliver Roux, a former Guinness finance director.

"There is no possible half-way house. Either Mr Saunders or Mr Roux is lying," the judge said.

On Guinness' main action to recover the money, he said there was "no conceivable defence to the action at the end of the day for Mr Ward."

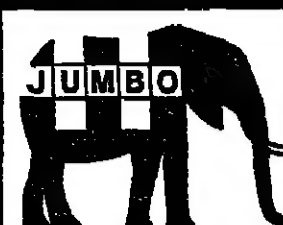
The judge highlighted several reasons for concluding that Mr Saunders' assets should remain frozen.

He said there was no doubt that Mr Saunders had a close connection with Switzerland.

Both Mr Saunders and his

Continued on page 2, col 6

The Times GOOD FRIDAY



An Easter teaser

The Times Jumbo Crossword, a holiday exercise to tax the whole family, 136 clues and a £50 prize for each of the first five correct entries.

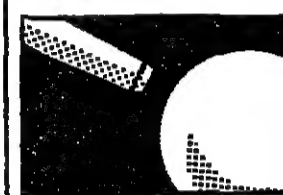
An Easter controversy

A Dominican monk challenges some assumptions; do Christians venerate the wrong Holy Land sites?

An active Easter

In The Times Information Service, a guide to Good Friday walks, and the best in entertainment.

A sporting Easter



A guide to a big weekend of sport, including a preview of that modern television extravaganza, the world snooker championship, which starts on Saturday.

Portfolio - Gold -

With the stock market closing tonight for Easter, the weekly prize will be on offer tomorrow - and with no winner last week, it will be worth £16,000.

INSIDE Boost for university research

Universities boosted their earnings last year by handling contracts from industry worth nearly £200 million - a rise of more than £50 million on the previous year. Page 24

IN PART 2 GEC project

The world's largest medical electronics company is expected to be created soon by a 50-50 partnership between Britain's General Electric and Holland's Philips. Page 25

Area benefits

Development areas can offer lifestyle advantages and economic benefits, according to the introduction to today's four-page General Appointments section. Pages 33-36

Portfolio

- The £12,000 prize in yesterday's Times Portfolio Gold competition, three times the usual amount as there were no winners on the previous two days, was shared by four readers. Details, page 3.
- The weekend game will be played tomorrow, when the weekly prize will be £16,000, double the usual amount, as well as the daily prize. So be sure to order The Times on Good Friday.
- Portfolio list, page 31.

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Unemployment to fall below 3m

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher received a triple boost yesterday with encouraging news on unemployment, productivity and industry's wage costs.

Unemployment fell for the eighth successive month in March. The total is officially forecast to drop below three million by June.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Employment, said that when the May unemployment figures are published on June 18 they would show a drop below three million on present trends.

"We have now seen a drop of 180,000 since last July to the lowest level for two-and-a-half years," he said. "I have no doubt that this downward

trend is set to continue." With inflation also expected to hit a temporary low in May, figures for which will be announced in June, the arguments in favour of a June general election are strengthening.

The overall unemployment total fell by 82,439 to 3,143,370 last month. The seasonally adjusted adult total, the best guide to the trend, fell by 30,100 to 3,042,900.

There was also encouraging news for industry in the latest productivity figures. In the 12 months to February, output per head in manufacturing rose by nearly 7 per cent, while unit wage and salary costs increased by only 1 per cent.

Details, page 25

Four hurt in chemicals explosion Cargo prosecutions likely

By Rodney Cowton and John England in Bonn

Prosecutions are likely after the discovery of undeclared dangerous chemicals on board the Zeebrugge disaster ferry.

This was revealed last night after a report in *The Times* yesterday that chemicals banned by international law from being carried on big passenger ferries were aboard the *Herald of Free Enterprise* which capsized with the loss of about 200 lives.

Townsend Thoresen, the ferry's operators, confirmed last night that it had discovered the presence of the undeclared chemicals after the vessel sank outside Zeebrugge harbour.

The company said that it was instituting legal proceedings in Belgium against those responsible. It said also that some of the chemicals would not have been allowed on a passenger ferry if it had known about them.

A spokesman for the ferry operators said that, according to the formal shipping documents which had been supplied before the ferry was entitled to carry the chemicals on a passenger ferry.

"However, after the capsizing of the *Herald*, we started making inquiries among ship-owners and hauliers and others involved in the transportation

of hazardous materials. We were asking for details of the colour or weight, or size, or anything that would help in the search for them," he said. "We then discovered there was a consignment aboard which had not been declared. It included materials which, if we had known about it, we would not have allowed on a passenger ferry. They were in small quantities, and were not of a nature or quantity to pose a major threat. We are taking legal action in the Belgian courts against several of those involved, and summonses have been issued."

Continued on page 24, col 1

Origins of the Aids virus 'go back 100 years'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The viruses which cause Aids may have existed among humans more than 100 years ago and will continue to threaten mankind far into the next century, Professor Luc Montagnier, the leading French researcher, said yesterday.

Professor Montagnier, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, first identified the virus now known as HIV-1 four years ago. His latest work, published today in *Nature*, the British scientific journal, casts new light on its origins and those of a second virus, HIV-2, which he has also discovered.

It warns that others may emerge and suggests that HIV-2 will be a serious threat to public health in Africa and is likely to spread in

Europe. Cases of disease caused by the second virus have already been identified in France, Germany and Sweden, since its discovery in late 1985.

Professor Montagnier, speaking at a news conference in London, warned that HIV-2-infected blood samples may not be detectable through existing screening methods, and urged that a way of diagnosing the infection be found quickly.

No cases have yet been recorded in Britain, but he said it was possible that the new infection could be brought to the UK by, for example, holiday-makers.

It was possible that research on HIV-2 could hasten the development of a vaccine. Chimpanzees, an endangered species, were the only animals suitable for testing the toxic

ity of an HIV-1 vaccine. But a more plentiful species of monkey could be found and used for HIV-2 tests, thus providing another route towards a common vaccine.

He said that the Aids virus probably originated in some species of African monkey, which may now be extinct.

"We suggest that these viruses existed long before the current Aids epidemics. A common ancestor probably existed a long time ago in a human population in west and central Africa."

They could have originated 100 or more years ago, but remained undetected until recently because of poor medical facilities in Africa, its lengthy incubation period, and confusion with other diseases.

The emergence of the Aids epidemic

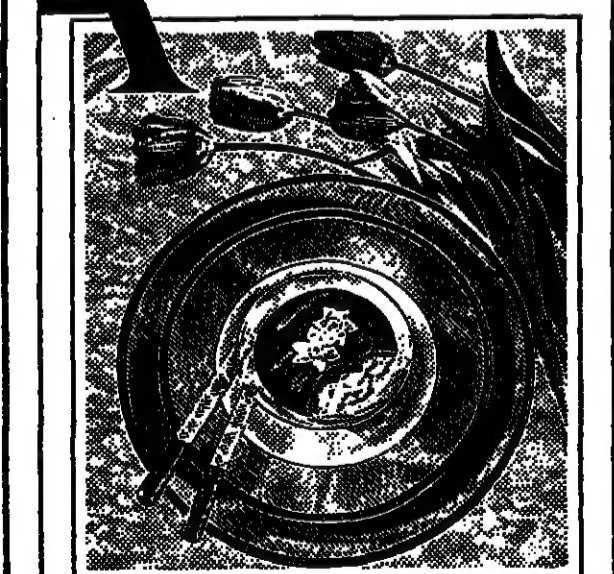
in Africa was probably the result of demographic changes, and he warned that the evolutionary potential of the viruses was striking.

Professor Montagnier also announced that the Pasteur Institute had received the proceeds of £30 million from the sale of the Duchess of Windsor's jewels.

● The full impact of the Aids viruses may not become known until after half or two thirds of the lifespan of an infected person has elapsed, an American researcher says in *Nature* today.

Dr Cecil Fox, of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, said: "Manifestations of the disease could continue to appear in survivors for 20 to 40 years after infection."

A la carte MAGAZINE



Open the May issue of A la carte for an early taste of summer...

May holiday entertaining with Frances Bissell

Nicola Cox's perfect summer keepers

Jancis Robinson recommends the new-wave of Italian wines

Josceline Dimbleby's dinner party menu

Paul Levy visits Marc Meneau's three-star restaurant L'Esperance

A la carte May issue on sale now at all good newsagents

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NEWS SUMMARY

Russian missiles on test in Wales

The Ministry of Defence has tested 11 Russian SA-6 anti-aircraft missiles it acquired some months ago on a range in Wales, it was disclosed yesterday.

The ministry has the whole weapon system, including the tracked transporter-erector-launcher vehicle.

The tests, at the firing range at Aberporth, Dyfed, proved that the missiles were highly reliable and accurate, according to a report in the latest *June's Defence Weekly* magazine.

It was not clear yesterday how the ministry acquired the missiles, but the SA-6 is in service in many countries, including Egypt, Yugoslavia and India as well as Soviet bloc countries including Hungary, Poland and Rumania.

The SA-7 is also known to have been tested, but it can be bought on the open market.

It is understood that the ministry has received other Russian weapons in the past but it is unusual to get hold of a complete weapons system.

Liverpool pair lose High Court appeal

Two Liverpool council employees accused of obtaining jobs because of their Militant sympathies lost a High Court appeal yesterday to prevent their dismissal by the caretaker Liberal authority.

Mr Justice McNeill lifted injunctions taken out by Mr Samson Bond and Mrs Beryl Molyneux, who were dismissed after the expulsion of 47 left-wing Labour councillors.

The ruling means that the Liberals, who have taken over the chairmanship of every council committee, will now examine the suitability of other employees and are likely to reorganise several departments.

Mrs Molyneux, a school crossing supervisor, was appointed to a £6,400 a year job as a press officer. Mr Bond was an assistant building surveyor before becoming race relations officer on an annual £14,000 salary. Both are likely to appeal.

Unions plan merger

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) and Mr Ken Gill, general secretary of the Technical and Administrative Supervisory Staffs (TASS) yesterday announced their plans to merge with four smaller unions.

The plan will go to a special meeting of both unions next week, and then to the unions' conferences before being put to a secret ballot. The merger is expected to create a new white-collar union of a million members by January. Mr Jenkins said: "We will have a unique opportunity provide one of the best services in the trade union movement".

Funeral verdict Embassy contact

Three Sinn Féin members of Derry city council, facing gun charges after shots were fired over an IRA man's coffin, were freed yesterday after a Belfast magistrate accepted there was no case to answer.

Hugh Brady, aged 31, Gerry Doherty, aged 32, and Mrs Doreen McGuinness were accused of having two pistols and ammunition. A detective inspector said evidence was based on television film and observations. But he admitted there was nothing to show the three were actually in possession of the weapons.

Welsh TUC move

The Wales TUC was yesterday granted more autonomy from the national TUC's General Council, according to Mr George Wright, Welsh General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. He said the move to give the Wales TUC greater determination to pick their own agendas and to legitimise their international role was wonderful news.

The TUC played down Mr Wright's claims, and would not budge over granting the Welsh separate disputes procedures.

Police talk to girl

A woman police officer was yesterday able to talk to the girl aged four from Hamilton, Lanarkshire, who was sexually assaulted last Saturday. The officer from the female and child unit of Hamilton police spent several hours at the girl's bedside in a Glasgow hospital, where she is recovering from "horrible" injuries.

The girl, who was abducted yards from her home, was on the critical list but her condition had improved. Detective Chief Inspector Alex Cowie would not reveal any details of the conversation.

Hailsham attack on trial by media

By Stewart Tindler
Crime Reporter

The Lord Chancellor, last night attacked "irresponsible comment" on court cases from the Press or public figures which could undermine the process of trial by judge and jury.

Speaking at a banquet in the City of London given by the London Solicitors' Company, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said: "Justice, it has been said, is not a cloistered virtue. I am not one to seek to suppress criticism. But let there be some self-discipline."

He did not spare his own profession. He recognized judges said foolish things. There was also a danger for members of the legal profession to denigrate each other and, Lord Hailsham said, lawyers should remember they were part of a profession not a trade union.

"Let criticism be well-informed, well-researched, and temperately expressed, or there will be trial by media or that elective dictatorship into which our own unwritten constitution could so easily slip."

There were dangers of trial by "irresponsible comment". Both civil and criminal cases could be undermined by such comment which produced trial by media, trial by publicity-hungry MPs, and trial by commentators eager to undermine public confidence.

On the whole, judges had accepted the Kilnair rules against speaking out in public and have erred in saying foolish things. But he went on: "Though sound judgement is always welcome, justice requires a degree of detachment and objectivity which cannot be obtained if judges constantly are having to look over their shoulders for fear of harassment and abuse and irresponsible demands for their resignation."

Lord Hailsham follows hard on the heels of Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, who also attacked public criticism of the judiciary earlier this week.

The Lord Chancellor is understood not to have any one particular case in mind, but feels that there has recently been a growing

development of strident comment, criticizing judges and juries for their actions. Since the beginning of this year there has been considerable public outcry over a number of cases.

The judge sentencing men involved in the Ealing rape case was accused of giving sentences which were too light.

At the end of the PC Keith Blakelock trial last month, a High Court judge was attacked for having given Winston Silcott, convicted of the policeman's death, bail in an earlier murder case.

Tory HQ launches election attack on 33 hard leftists

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The pre-election political skirmishing for the 84 parliamentary seats in London took a new turn yesterday as Conservative Central Office claimed that 33 of Labour's prospective candidates were associated with the hard left.

It also said that 13 Labour candidates had links with *Labour Briefing*, the hard left magazine which carries a ferocious attack on the "kamikaze" leadership of Mr Neil Kinnock in its current issue.

None of the candidates were named but the 13, on the basis of their having supported the magazine or written for it, were said to include sitting MPs Mr Tony Banks, Newham North West, Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Islington North, and Miss Jo Richardson, Barking.

Prospective Labour candidates included Mr Ken Livingstone, Mr Russell Proffitt and Miss Diane Abbott.

The Conservatives' broadside came as it was disclosed that the Labour Party will fight the general election under the slogan "The country's crying out for change. Vote Labour".

The slogan, married to posters depicting a dole queue and an empty hospital ward, will be seen on hoardings up to the May 7 council elections and beyond, assuming Mrs Margaret Thatcher goes to the country in June.

The campaign, in which Labour's now familiar logo of the red rose is brought into play as a pictorial beacon of hope amid scenes of despair, is the fruit of a year's work by the party's 20-strong "shadow agency" of volunteers drawn from the advertising industry. The team has been put together by Mr Peter

Mr Norman Tebbit was accused last night of attempting to lean on the BBC in the run up to the general election. The claim came as the corporation defended itself against the latest criticisms of its political coverage made by the Conservative Party chairman.

In a sharply worded letter to Mr Michael Checkland, the new director general of the BBC, Mr Tebbit complained at the lack of coverage given to Britain's record export figures last month.

But last night Mr Alan Protheroe, Assistant Director General of the BBC, sent the Conservative Party chairman a detailed reply which showed that the report on March 26 not only appeared on *Ceejay* within one minute of the figures being officially released but also received widespread coverage in a variety of BBC broadcasts.

Mr David Alton, Liberal chief whip, said: "This is a direct attempt by the chairman of the Tory party to lean on the BBC in the run up to the election campaign".

Mandelson, director of communications, said of the slogan and the grainy photograph of the empty ward, in which the luscious bouquet of flowers provide the only relief: "It obviously expresses the hope for a better Britain. People like it. We have tested this on three occasions to see if people understand it — that they get the subliminal message — and it works fine."

Tory election planners were boosted by a private poll conducted in the greater London area which gave them a "healthy" lead with Labour "firmly" in third place behind the Alliance.

The Central Office briefing released to reporters yesterday

followed a robust defence of Labour's record in local government by Dr John Cunningham, its shadow environment secretary, on Tuesday.

Dr Cunningham, looking forward to the council elections, stressed the moderation of the vast majority of Labour-run town halls and accused the Government of "lies" and "distortions" in seeking to exploit claims that left-wing authorities had runned debts of £25 billion through leaseback arrangements involving banks and City institutions.

Mr David Hyams, leader of the opposition Alliance group on Islington Borough Council, which is planning to sell off its town hall and lease it back to raise cash, accused Dr Cunningham of being "naive or disingenuous" in not acknowledging the vast debts being stored up for future generations.

Mr Hyams said the Labour authority's scheme would raise £42 million in the first three years then cost £207 million in interest charges over the next 17 — a net loss of at least £165 million.

Meanwhile, Labour made a renewed attempt to revive its fortunes in the capital which it has admitted have flagged in the wake of the widespread publicity given to the activities of the "loony left".

Mr Bryan Gould, its campaign co-ordinator, and Mr Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras, joined forces to launch a new agenda for London.

In the capital in the 1983 general election, the Conservatives polled 44 per cent of the vote, Labour 30 per cent and the Alliance 25 per cent. The Conservatives have 56 MPs, Labour 25 and the Alliance three.

BA to push for BCal routes

By Harvey Elliott,
Air Correspondent

British Airways has set its sights on becoming Britain's only important long-haul international airline, even if this means taking over routes now operated by British Caledonian.

The newly privatized airline is convinced that the Government will ensure that Britain does not become swamped by foreign competition only by backing the biggest carrier in the country.

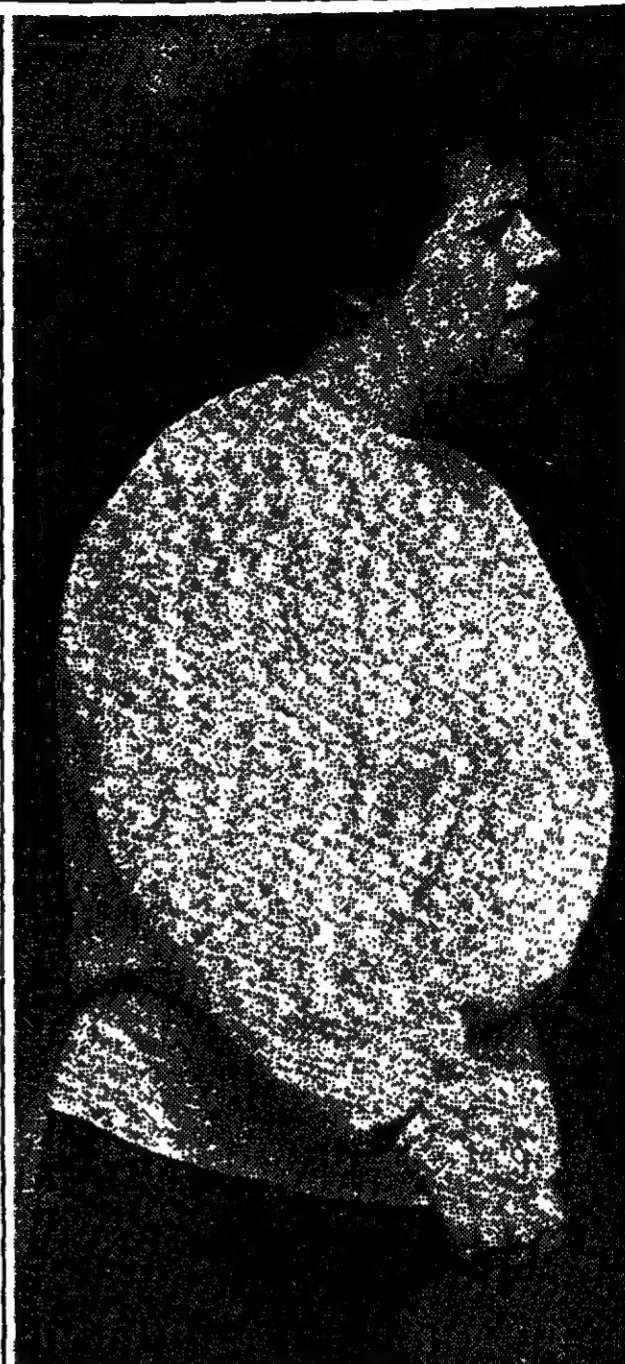
BA is to mount an extensive campaign lobbying Ministers and officials and aimed at forcing a change in competition policies to allow it to take over the long-haul operations now provided by British Caledonian if necessary.

Mr Colin Marshall, the airline's chief executive, made the first public reference to the new plans yesterday in a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in London. He said that throughout the world big airlines are getting bigger while the small

airline is finding an important niche in providing short-haul passengers to supply the long-haul routes.

"The middle sized airline increasingly find with some sense of desperation that it has nowhere to go," he said.

He was scathing about the way in which the new giant American carriers can not only fly to London but take on passengers to other destinations throughout Europe while foreign airlines could not do the same within the United States.



Miss Burford: refuses to comment on allegations that she was given documents to destroy. (Photograph: James Gray)

High Court freeze on Saunders assets stays

Continued from page 1

wife were living in Switzerland and had put their house in England up for sale.

The judge also pointed out that Mr Saunders had refused when asked to give an undertaking not to dispose of the proceeds of sale of his house.

Mr Roux's evidence, if it was believed — "and it is a big if" — disclosed behaviour that was "at the lowest reprehensible, at the worst dishonest" on the part of Mr Saunders, the judge said.

He also pointed out that apart from Mr Roux's evidence there were allegations of misconduct or dishonesty against Mr Saunders during the case which came from people who had "no obvious reason to lie".

This included the evidence



Mrs McGrath: claims Mr Saunders ordered shredding.

of Mrs Margaret McGrath, former personal assistant to Mr Saunders, claiming that he ordered her and his secretary, Miss Melanie Burford, to shred documents. Mr Saunders denies this.

Security vetting alert at GCHQ

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

A routine security check on an employee at GCHQ, the Government's top secret communications centre in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, has led to his suspension after allegations of homosexuality.

The man, a junior member of the staff in his early 20s, was sent home on full pay about three weeks ago while an investigation into his background was carried out.

GCHQ would not confirm or deny that he had been suspended for being homosexual, but an official said that he had been subject to a routine security clearance check which had raised matters of concern.

The official emphasized that homosexuality alone would not be grounds for suspension. But if it made him vulnerable to blackmail, he would be judged a security risk.

Security vetting at GCHQ has been much tighter after the scandal over the case of Geoffrey Prime, who betrayed vital secrets to the Russians and was sentenced to 38 years in prison in 1982. He had been positively vetted four times.

The man under suspension will have the right of appeal, once Sir Peter Morynchurch, the GCHQ director, has ruled on his case.

A GCHQ spokesman said yesterday: "Even if the decision goes against him, there is no question of him being dismissed."

"He would simply be transferred to another government department where he would not be involved with matters of national security."

Young is blamed for walk-out

By Roland Radd

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, was accused yesterday of deliberately seeking to worsen the plight of the unemployed during the present Civil Service strike.

Civil Servants at the Livingston, Lothian, computer centre, which processes Giro payments for unemployed people in Scotland and Northern England, and has been affected by industrial action, were ordered to write out Giro claims by hand or receive no pay.

The Civil Servants immediately walked out of all Department of Health and Social Security and Department of Employment offices, causing a national strike in Scotland instead of hitting selected targets.

The Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) said that the order was a "sinister plot" hatched by Lord Young and Scottish management officials to delay payments.

The Department of Employment denied the accusation, which could lead to a full strike in the south of England on May 7 when the Reading, Berkshire, computer centre is due to shut because of industrial action.

Scientists hoping to beat drug side-effects

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A breakthrough in chemical research that allows scientists to design drugs that avoid harmful side-effects was reported to the annual congress of the Royal Society of Chemistry by Dr Steven Davies of Oxford University.

The discovery, which has been taken up by BP Chemicals, opens a new way for chemists to synthesise the sort of compounds that are used to make pharmaceuticals, pesticides and other specialist chemicals.

Even with the most elaborate methods to produce the purest possible compounds, the molecules can hold a hidden danger. While they are all chemically identical, a mixture of molecules can consist of two versions: one being a mirror image of the other. But the difference can have a profound effect. Although the chemical formula is identical for both forms, the body

can absorb them in different ways, as happened with thalidomide.

The discovery by Dr Davies is a family of reagents called Chiral Iron Acetylides, which ensure that the type of chemical reactions in making drugs and similar organic compounds produce only one form of the molecule. The scientists refer to it as optical purity.

But in addition to safety, a technology based on chiral reagents would remove other more elaborate and expensive stages in trying to achieve optical purity.

Studies of some small animals and plants had shown the importance of introducing only one optical form of a chemical molecule in drugs, food additives, insecticides and herbicides according to Professor Henri Brunner of Regensburg University, West Germany.

Medina treasure haul is preserved in mud

Divers searching for treasure aboard the torpedoed World War One liner Medina have discovered that a thick layer of mud has helped preserve her cargo.

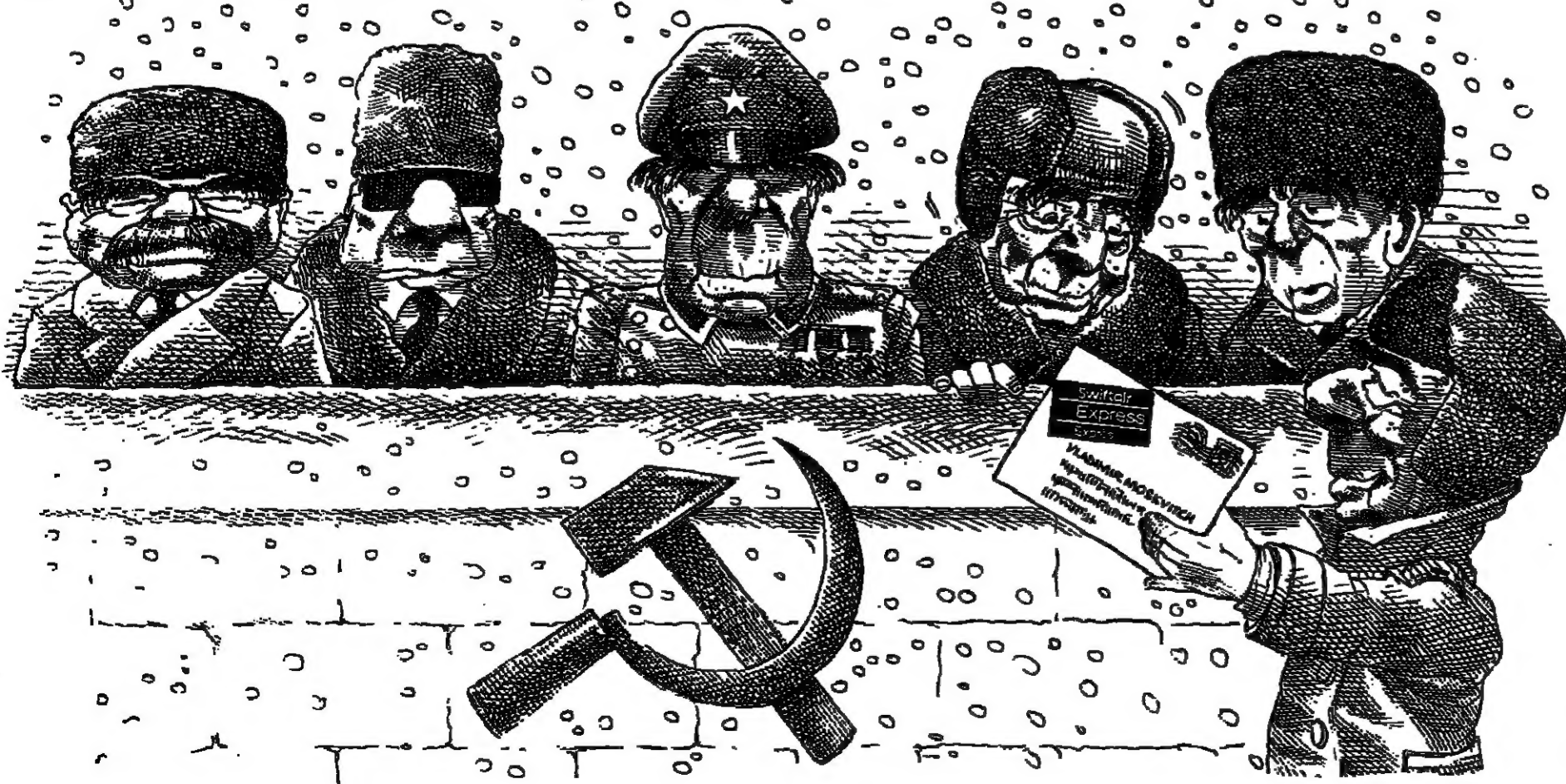
An international consortium is hoping to raise several million pounds worth of Oriental art treasures which Lord Carmichael was bringing home in 1917.

He was an avid collector who had just finished a spell as Governor of Madras and Ben-

gal when his baggage was lost with the armed liner Medina off the Devon coast.

Mr Tom Henderson, of SAR Marine, which is based in Falmouth, said: "The art objects are extraordinarily well-preserved by the mud."

"This obviously will increase the value of the haul, but I cannot put any figures on it." Estimates of it having been worth £200 million have been dismissed as grossly exaggerated.



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Royal Mail

Sobbing woman collapses in the dock as jury return

Maths teacher gets life sentence for double axe murder

A woman teacher who axed to death the wife and child of a colleague was jailed for life yesterday.

Heather Arnold, aged 50, was found guilty after a jury took seven-and-a-half hours to return unanimous verdicts at Bristol Crown Court.

Arnold, a mathematics teacher, murdered Mrs Jeanne Sutcliffe, and her daughter, Heidi, aged eight months, in the sewing room of their home at The Butts, Westbury, Wiltshire.

The judge, Mr Justice Henry, told Arnold: "The jury has rightly convicted you of these two terrible murders, murders which had shocked and horrified the community."

"That community is now left to mourn the quality of these two innocent lives you took."

Arnold, a slightly built, bespectacled woman with her greying hair worn tied back, broke down and sobbed as the forewoman of the jury gave the first guilty verdict. She collapsed in the dock as the second guilty verdict was given. On the public benches was Mr Paul Sutcliffe, aged 45, the victims' husband and father.

Arnold, a divorcee, had denied the murders of Mrs Sutcliffe and her baby on April 30 1986.

Her only daughter, Mrs Jane Buckley, a solicitor aged 26, said in evidence that her mother had produced an axe-head from her skirt six days after the killing. Police were called and Arnold was arrested.

The jury retired to consider the evidence on Tuesday, but

after six hours of deliberation the judge recalled them. He sent the jurors to a hotel for the night and they finally returned unanimous verdicts yesterday, the 11th day of the trial, after a further 90-minute retirement.

After the trial Det Supt Tony Burden, deputy head of Wiltshire CID, said the inquiry was "like dealing with a horror story".

Mr Burden, who led the investigation, said he found Arnold a cold, calculating individual.

He said he found it difficult to state a motive for the murders but pointed out that Arnold was a "very lonely woman". He said: "She is an extremely intelligent woman and, in my view, used that intelligence in a calculated way to cover her tracks."



Mr Paul Sutcliffe (left), and Heather Arnold (right), who killed his wife and baby daughter.

Envy of a lonely divorcee

Paul Sutcliffe still cannot believe that his friendship with Heather Arnold should have cost the lives of his wife, Jeanne, and baby daughter, Heidi.

At a press conference after the trial Mr Sutcliffe said he thought Arnold's envy over a happy family enjoying a new baby was the motive behind the murders.

Mr Sutcliffe first met Arnold at Kingdown School, Warminster, where they both worked in the mathematics department.

But it was the divorce from her husband, John, and the wedding of her daughter, Jane, that brought Arnold into closer contact with Mr and Mrs Sutcliffe.

Arnold would call round to collect wool and other materi-

als for sewing and Mr Sutcliffe would go down occasionally to help with odd jobs.

But Mr Sutcliffe said he now recognized there was a change in Arnold's attitude after the birth of Heidi.

"When I think back over things that Jeanne had said and the things Heather said there's the odd little clue that seems to fall into place. For instance Heather never really showed any interest in Heidi."

The day Jeanne and Heidi died started early with Heidi demanding a feed at 6.30am. "I have the most beautiful memory of Jeanne feeding Heidi in bed that morning. Anna was with us; she would always go where Heidi was. I was putting my legs up in bed for her to climb over. It was such a normal day."

The last sight he had of Jeanne and Heidi alive was as they left for school. "Jeanne always stood at the kitchen with Heidi to wave us off."

Mr Sutcliffe said: "My feeling for her very almost with the weather. They can go from total indifference, thinking about what she must be suffering, to a feeling that if only they would leave her in an upstairs room with the window open, she might do the right thing."

He said that he and his three children, Linda, aged 16, David, aged 14, and Anna, aged seven, were now trying to re-build their lives. They intended to stay at their Westbury home and he would continue teaching.



Mrs Jeanne Sutcliffe (left) feeding her daughter, Heidi, and (right) the baby at aged six months, with her grandmother, Mrs Kathleen Hickman.

Decision on Heysel delayed

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

The High Court yesterday gave Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, more time to decide what to do over the failure of the Heysel stadium extradition case.

There are now worries in the DPP's department that other pending extradition cases could also be affected because they may have followed the same practice criticized by the judges.

Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, for the DPP, said the case required careful consideration because the Home Office practice in extradition proceedings over the past seven years was acutely involved.

Earlier this week extradition orders for 26 Liverpool football supporters were rejected by Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Mann because of a flaw in the presentation of evidence.

The judges agreed to give the supporters writs of *habeas corpus* but did not issue them until the DPP had decided whether to try for an appeal to the House of Lords.

Yesterday the judges agreed to continue to suspend the writs, leaving the supporters free on bail until April 29.

Mr Sherrard, who is handling the Belgian Government's extradition request, told the judges that their decision last Monday to block extradition was still being considered.

He said he had consulted Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, on Tuesday. Sir Michael had urged that every step should be taken to ensure there were no unnecessary delays.

The DPP's staff will check all current proceedings to see whether any others might be affected by the same possible flaw.

Spanish airport workers delay Easter escape

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A strike by Spanish airport workers led to long delays at airline check-in counters yesterday as thousands of Britons headed for an overseas Easter break.

The one-day Spanish strike affected thousands of passengers who were getting away early for Easter. But most flights managed to leave, al-

though there were delays of more than eight hours.

Thomson Holidays, which had 16 departures scheduled from British airports, said that most were delayed by one to two hours, mainly because it took longer for the passengers to unload their own baggage at airports in Spain rather than rely on Spanish baggage handlers.

One flight from Gatwick to Tenerife, on a Boeing 767

which does not have its own steps for disembarkation, was delayed for eight-and-a-half hours to ensure that it arrived after the strike ended at midnight last night.

The holiday company, which uses mainly Britannia Airways to carry package tour groups, was able to split other passengers into smaller units and put them onto Boeing 737 jets, which do have their own steps.

Apart from being asked to carry their own baggage, most holidaymakers arrived at their destination with little disruption.

Hundreds of thousands of people will fly from British airports in the next few days. Thomson alone will carry 70,000 people on 454 flights, with 60 per cent heading for Spain.

British Airways said that it

expected to carry 100,000 passengers to holiday resorts in the next three days, and every flight was fully booked.

One of the most popular spots this year is Moscow, which has suddenly boomed as a holiday destination in the wake of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's visit. Extra flights have been scheduled by British Airways, Aeroflot and charter airlines to cope with the demand.

Explosion appeal to be speeded up

By Ian Smith

Survivors of the Abbeystead pumping station explosion, who have been waiting three years for compensation, were told yesterday that they will not, after all have to wait 18 more months for their Court of Appeal case to be heard.

At the High Court hearing in Lancaster, bought by the 28 survivors of the methane gas explosion and relatives of the 16 people who died, the designers, builders and owners of the station were all blamed for the disaster and ordered to pay compensation.

All three - Binnie and Partners, the designers of the pumping station, near St Michael's on Wyre, Lancashire, the builders, Edmond Nuttall, and the owners, the

North West Water Authority, have appealed against the decision.

The methane gas explosion tore apart the valve house during a visit by 42 villagers

Mr David Arkwright, a solicitor who representing 31 people from the village, had already written to the appeal court registrar asking the hearing be brought forward.

He said: "Some of my clients are virtually penniless. Everything they own has been spent on bringing the High Court case to determine blame for this appalling tragedy."

Yesterday Mr Arkwright received a letter from the Registrar of Civil Appeals saying the case will be held in July.

Celebration kills GP

A doctor drank himself to death while celebrating with the father of a baby he had just delivered, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Michael Bourne, aged 33, a GP in Penzance, Cornwall, died of alcohol poisoning after drinking large quantities of whisky. The spree began on April 1 at the Fountain Inn, Penzance.

Mr Ian Kewn came into the bar to celebrate the birth of his

daughter Sarah-Jane, the inquest at Helston was told.

Mr Kewn, of St Clare Street, Penzance, said yesterday: "I invited him to join us. After the pub closed we went back to my house to continue the celebrations."

Mr Derrick Pepperell, the West Cornwall Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Dr Bourne, of Ivy Barn, Newmill, Penzance.

Villagers complain to bishop

By Michael McCarthy

Villagers at Nettleton, in Wiltshire, rallied yesterday to the memory of Mr Fred Clark, the local farmer who achieved celebrity in death by a less than glowing account of his life from the priest who conducted his funeral.

Neighbours and friends insisted he was not the bad-tempered, disagreeable and unworthy person, unlikely to be missed, described by Canon Michael Dittmer, the local vicar, in an unconventional funeral oration which caused considerable upset in the village.

A number of the villagers are unhappy with the apology from the canon, aged 69, and have arranged a meeting with the Bishop of Bristol on April 28 to air their feelings.

Yesterday Mr Dennis Marsh, who farmed next to Mr Clark, spoke out strongly for the man he had known since childhood.

"At his funeral the church was so full that people were standing in the gangways. I've never seen the church so full. These people would certainly not have been there if Fred was the sort of man the vicar says he was."

"He would help anybody. You only had to ask and he would do all he could to help. He did a very great deal for the village during the years he was up the parish council. He was nothing like the vicar says." He had worked hard to raise funds for the church.

Mr Jeremy Charmand, the chairman of Nettleton Parish Council, said: "Mr Clark was not at all bad-tempered. He was, in fact, extremely popular and a very nice man."

Mr Jeanne Bush, another parish councillor, said that Mr Clark, who died of a stroke aged 52, leaving a widow and four children, was "a very pleasant man, respected in the village, and liked by many people who were very sad to hear of his sudden death."

Mr Clark's widow, Pauline, said last night: "My husband was held in great affection by his family and he generated great love in them and in their friends, and this is the way we shall remember him."

She added that she thanked the villagers of Nettleton for their support, and hoped the matter was now closed.

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Education finance

Heads want extra pay for controlling school budgets

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Head teachers are to demand more pay for carrying out the Government plan to give schools control of their own budgets.

Branch secretaries of the 27,000-member National Association of Head Teachers will be advised at their Easter conference to negotiate for higher pay and for guarantees of extra money, particularly to pay for administrative assistants or school bursars to cope with the extra work.

Nearly 40 local education authorities are expected shortly to set up their own pilot schemes in devolution of budgetary control to schools, following the example set by Cambridgeshire.

Mr David Hart, the NAHT general secretary, said yesterday that the level of extra pay demanded by heads would depend on the findings of a job-evaluation study currently being undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Child abuse plea.....6

Classroom teachers are deeply suspicious of the proposals, which were unveiled last week by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The moderate Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association, the third largest teaching union, yesterday called at its conference in Harrogate for careful monitor-

ing of current pilot schemes.

The union is the first to debate the issue since Mr Baker's announcement and it was clear that teachers expect heads to economize on staff levels, impose extra work on deputies and squeeze education "extras" such as field trips.

Mr Peter Hewitt, a teacher from Cambridgeshire, said that few head teachers had the background or training to handle a budget of over £1 million a year.

He said that heads would be tempted to skimp on supply staff where a teacher is absent, saving themselves £60 a day.

Heads in the Cambridgeshire pilot schools are already saving money from their budgets by leaving vacancies unfilled or by appointing

teachers on low salary scales.

Another delegate said that Conservative-controlled Harrow has initiated a pilot scheme without accounting in school budgets for the increase in field trips caused by the new GCSE syllabuses.

Dr Peter Beetham, head of biology at St Dominic's sixth form college, said: "I have 40 A-level students and this year I only have half my usual budget for field trips. I cannot cover the requirements of my A-level syllabus."

Mrs Ruth Arnold said that in Alliance-controlled Kingston-upon-Thames, a pilot scheme had been introduced without discussing the vital issue of cover for absent teachers or appointing administrative assistants.

Teachers divided over four-term year

A school year of four equal terms would be an educational asset, a teachers' union decided yesterday (Our Education Correspondent writes).

But many teachers are unwilling to see their seven-week summer holiday cut to an early summer break of three or four weeks, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association conference in

Harrogate, Yorkshire, was told.

More than one in four delegates voted against endorsing proposals by the local authorities for four different types of four-term years. All four options have fixed dates for the beginning and end of each term, and would keep children and teachers in school during August and

sometimes over Easter.

Mrs Anne Keeble, from Buckinghamshire, said that families would find the regular pattern more convenient.

But Miss Alison Bolt, from Cumbria, said: "The last few days of term are purgatory for most teachers. It would be counter-productive to have four days instead of three in the year when you have to

keep your heady eye on the fire-extinguishers and other things."

She said: "I have interests other than teaching. My social life would be completely altered by a four-term year."

Mrs Kaye Larkin, also from Cumbria, said that the proposed 10-week terms with short one or two-day half-term breaks, were too long.

The day a Thatcher joined the wets



Mr Denis Thatcher hurtling down mock rapids yesterday as he opened the £2.5 million Thames River ride at Thorpe Park Centre, Surrey.

The Prime Minister's husband (in the right of the vessel) did two circuits of the ride. He originally intended to do four circuits but decided to call it a day, saying: "You can have too much of a good thing."

Despite the protective clothing, his jacket and trousers took a drenching.

Farmers warned of fewer subsidies

A bleak outlook for farm incomes was predicted yesterday by the Governor of the Bank of England (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton told an audience at a farm open day near Marlborough, Wiltshire, that it was also difficult to see how the EEC

common agricultural policy

could endure.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton, who is also a farmer, said: "The transition to lower levels of subsidy and greater dependence on the market place might be eased by the imposition of quotas and the payment of compensation."

cultural industry will, I be-

lieve, have to move to a position where the normal laws of supply and demand set the point at which production is only marginally viable."

He said he was uneasy about the level of external debt in the industry, which stands at more than £6,000 million.

LWT will buy news bulletins

By Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

London Weekend Television is to break with industry practice by commissioning an independent company to produce local news bulletins.

The experiment could lead to increased pressure being put on the other ITV companies, and the BBC, to allow independents to make news programmes.

Initially, LWT plans to buy four weekend bulletins of three minutes each.

It will be the first British television station to allow an outside organization access to the previously sacrosanct area of news production.

BBC Radio production secretaries, who earn between £6,630 and £8,160, demonstrated outside Broadcasting House, central London, yesterday to support demands for pay increases of £2,000 to £3,000. The BBC has offered £200 to £300.

The dispute over proposed job cuts at LBC Radio in London, and its subsidiary Independent Radio News, is to move to Acas, the arbitration and conciliation service. The company is seeking to cut 34 jobs at the station. Staff say that would lower editorial standards.

Princess Anne will be a studio guest on May 17 on the joint Radio Four and BBC World Service phone-in programme, *It's Your World*. The live, 45-minute broadcast starts at 12.10pm.

●BBC Television is to launch its spring and summer schedule of sport on Saturday with live coverage of the world title welterweight fight between Lloyd Honeyghan and Maurice Blocker from the Royal Albert Hall.

Also starting this weekend are two weeks of broadcasts from the World Professional Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

On May 16, the BBC will cover the FA Cup Final between Tottenham Hotspur and Coventry City.

BR loses £13m deal to Swiss

By Ronald Faux
Employment Affairs Correspondent

British Rail Engineering yesterday admitted the loss of a £13 million contract to a Swiss company because its bogie could not match the required specification for travelling at speed.

The company was to have supplied 566 bogies as part of a larger contract by Metro Cammell, of Birmingham, for the electrification of the London to Edinburgh east coast line.

It said yesterday the contract with Metro Cammell had been cancelled because it could not guarantee to meet the specification for 140 mph running.

Development work was required to upgrade the British bogie, which is cleared to operate at 125 mph. BREL was not prepared to risk the penalties that would be imposed if a 140 mph bogie was not delivered on time. The Swiss company, Sig, could offer a tried and tested high-speed bogie which met the requirements.

The future for the BREL workforce in Derby now depends on the company winning orders to replace the lost contract, but the National Union of Railwaymen was angry that railway jobs were being threatened because of the policy of competitive tendering.

The union fears that thousands of railway jobs could be lost over the next few years.

Poachers net a fortune

Water authorities all over the country say they are worried by an increase in poaching and in attacks on their baliffs.

Mr David Bathers, legal division solicitor for the Welsh Water Authority, said yesterday that some poachers were travelling up to 200 miles to net salmon, which sell for between £2 and £2.50 a pound on the black market.

Labour urges full funding for nurses

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday urged the Government to avert a crisis in the national health service by funding all the pay award to be recommended for nurses.

Last week the Royal College of Nursing took the first steps towards industrial action over pay by voting to convene an extraordinary meeting if the Government refused for the third time to honour the award.

Mr Michael Meacher, the Labour Party's social services spokesman, said: "If the NHS is to head off the greatest crisis it has ever faced, the Government must honour in full this year's independent pay review recommendations on nurses' pay."

Mr Meacher said Labour was committed to honouring the 1987-88 recommendations, expected to be announced shortly, and funding the whole cost of the award centrally.

In the last two years the Government had cut the value of the award by delaying implementation and paying it in stages, he said. In both these years the Government had funded only part of the award, leaving district health authorities to make up the shortfall

through cuts in other sectors. "Nurses make up 50 per cent of all NHS staff. The NHS cannot afford to lose them. They do not deserve to be told that if they get a rise, patient services will be cut. They deserve to be paid a fair day's pay for what is more than a fair day's work."

In its confidential evidence to the 1987-88 pay review body, the Government had already said there would be little scope for real increases in nurses' pay if health authorities were to achieve service developments, Mr Meacher said.

Mr Meacher quoted a study by the Royal College of Nursing which showed that 73 per cent of nurses were dissatisfied with pay levels, 65 per cent said their workload had increased over the last year, and a third said they had seriously considered applying for a job outside the NHS in the last twelve months.

After three years' training and work, a newly qualified staff nurse was paid only £6,475 per annum, rising over five years to £7,750. A police cadet on his first day of training would get £7,752, while a firefighter would get £8,259.



In the recent Budget, the duty on unleaded petrol was reduced—so now it's no more expensive than leaded petrol.

"What's it to do with me?" you may ask. "My car can't run on it"

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Alternatively, pick up the Esso Unleaded leaflets, including our Service Station Site Directory, at your nearest Esso Station.

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Q What is unleaded petrol?

A It is petrol to which no lead has been deliberately added.

2

Q Why is lead added to petrol?

A Small quantities of lead compounds can be added to petrol to increase its octane number. This allows the use of higher compression ratio engines with more ignition spark advance, which means improved engine efficiency and fuel economy. To replace lead we have to introduce more high octane compounds to compensate.

3

Q What is 'low lead' petrol compared to unleaded?

A Low lead refers to the normal leaded petrol which is currently available. This is because the lead content was reduced in all petrol to 0.15g per litre on 1st January 1986 from its previous level of 0.40g per litre, in line with British Standard 4040. Unleaded petrol is allowed to contain up to 0.013g per litre which is why it cannot be called 'lead free', although on the Continent this term may be used where unleaded cannot be translated.

4

Q Can I use unleaded petrol in my car?

A The majority of cars in the United Kingdom have been designed to run on leaded petrol. However, nearly 40% of post-1985

6

Q Where can I buy unleaded petrol?

A Esso were the first company in the UK to put unleaded on sale. And since then we have been increasing the number of our service stations that sell unleaded petrol. We now have more stations selling unleaded than all our competitors put together. For details of where you can buy Esso Unleaded please pick up a FREE copy of our latest site directory from any Esso station.

7

Q How will I know which pump dispenses unleaded petrol?

A Esso Unleaded pumps are clearly marked UNLEADED and will usually have a small pump nozzle and identification cover marked UNLEADED on the nozzle.

8

Q What happens if I inadvertently put the wrong fuel in my car?

A Given the safeguards mentioned above it would be very difficult for you to do so. However, an isolated incident may not be too serious. Unleaded petrol used in an engine designed to take leaded, or leaded petrol used in an unleaded engine, could eventually cause damage to the engine.

9

Q What about other petrol fuelled equipment, like my lawn mower and chain saw?

A Some will operate successfully on unleaded. However, you should check with the manufacturer or dealer for specific advice and follow their recommendations.

10

Q For how long will leaded petrol continue to be available?

A Unleaded petrol will be phased in over a number of years. Therefore both leaded and unleaded will be available for a transition period which will be as long as the present product is required to supply today's cars.

11

Q What happens if I take my car to the Continent?

A Both leaded and unleaded petrol are available in Europe. There may be slight differences in unleaded to take account of local conditions, but this is unlikely to affect a car that can run on unleaded petrol.

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£4m for the parents who have never known how to care

By Jill Sherman, Social Services, Correspondent

Child abuse and neglect is often the result of parental ignorance, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said yesterday.

Dr Alan Gilmour, NSPCC director, said: "Many parents know nothing about basic child care or even how to play with their children - they don't know where to start."

He was speaking at the launch of a £4 million initiative to set up centres aimed at helping families overcome problems of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Dr Gilmour said simple ignorance of how to budget, how to keep a house clean, or even how to cook a simple meal, could all build up stress and tension and lead to child suffering.

"The development of family care is not an optional extra. Child abuse is a family problem. In order to deal with it properly you have to look at the family as a whole", he said.

The new developments follow big rises in the number of reported cases of child abuse. At the end of last year the NSPCC estimated that nearly 10,000 children under the age of 15 were physically abused, 3,000 were sexually abused and over 1,000 emotionally abused every year.

The figures also showed a rise in serious and fatal injuries, and Dr Gilmour esti-

lated that three to four children died every week because of abuse or neglect.

During the next five years the NSPCC plans to almost double the number of its child protection teams and built up a network of family care centres throughout the country. At present the organisation has 34 teams based in eight family centres.

The teams, made up of social workers and nursery officers, carry out investigative work, in-depth counselling and community education as well as assessing the child and the family.

This year the organisation is aiming to spend £250,000 to set up seven more teams based in family care centres where parents are taught how to care for children. In the next five years 65 teams will be developed at 65 centres.

Children are referred to the centres either by local authorities, or by magistrates when a child is made a ward of court. Sometimes the child protection teams also pick up at-risk children during their investigations.

Mrs Pat Wilkinson, officer in charge of a family centre in Manchester, said that some parents had no idea of how to meet a child's basic needs.

Mrs Wilkinson said: "We have one 23-year-old father who spent his childhood in total isolation - either in his bedroom or the coalhole. He

now does not have the capacity to care.

"Every morning we have to teach him to make his son a drink, how to change him, how to feed, play, cuddle and love him.

In another case a family centre worker found a mother was force feeding her six-month-old child the amounts stated on the packets of baby food to make the baby put on weight.

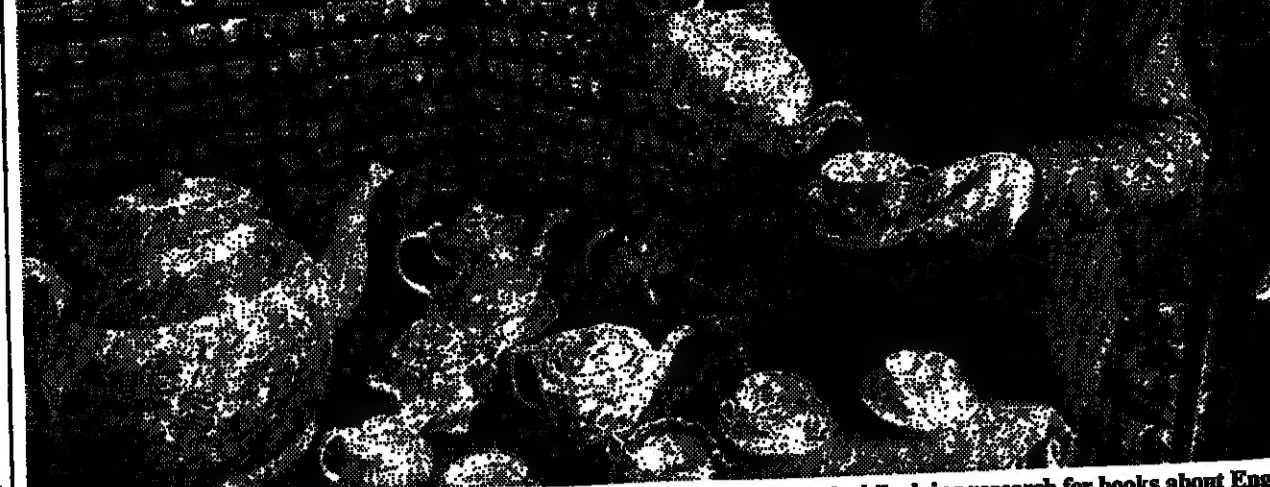
Teachers call for guidance on abuse

Teachers yesterday called for inter-departmental Government initiative to train school staff to spot cases of child abuse.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association at its conference in Harrogate also called for all local authorities to give teachers clear guidance on the issue.

Mr Peter Smith, deputy general secretary, said: "This is not the ritual cry of teachers asking for more in-service training. It is an urgent need. Initiatives such as 'Child Watch' have made teachers much more aware of the problem."

Mrs Jane Lee, a home-school liaison teacher in a primary school in Bradford, West Yorkshire, said: "Teachers are worried. They feel they have no training in identifying a case of child abuse."



Mr Michael Berthoud with some of the 2,000 cups and teapots he has collected while doing research for books about English pottery and porcelain. The collection, thought to be the largest on public display in a private house, is kept at Mr Berthoud's home in Broseley, near Ironbridge, Shropshire. (Photograph: Philip Dunn)

Ruling on EEC forces poll in Ireland

By Richard Ford

A referendum is to be held in the Irish Republic next month to decide whether to accept that part of the Single European Act which provides for a written constitution.

The nationwide poll may be followed by a detailed all-party review of the 1937 constitution as critics claim it should be redrafted to reflect the changed circumstances within the Republic.

Mr Charles Haughey, the

Prime Minister, has already indicated a willingness to consider the views of other political parties on the issue.

Such a review would provide the minority Fianna Fail government with an issue which will divert voters' attention from the tough economic measures it has introduced to try to improve the debt-ridden economy.

The Dail has been recalled early and a three-day debate on the wording of the 10th

constitutional amendment next week will provide deputies with an opportunity to raise the idea of a wider review of a constitution framed by De Valera 50 years ago.

The government is adopting a "minimalist" approach to the forthcoming poll which has been forced upon it by a Supreme Court ruling that part of the Single European Act is unconstitutional. The wording will state that nothing in the constitution should affect or inhibit ratification

and operation of the Act which is designed to streamline EEC decision-making and bring greater political and economic co-operation.

By proposing such a wording, the government hopes to avoid acrimonious debate relating to foreign policy, Irish sovereignty and neutrality in the days before the referendum which is likely to be held on May 26 or 27.

The three major parties in the country will support the amendment.

No reward for crucial witness to robbery

A taxi driver who gave Scotland Yard crucial information that helped convict two American gangsters of a £1.5 million jewellery robbery has failed to win a share in the £50,000 reward.

In the High Court in London yesterday, Mr Justice Hutchison dismissed a claim by the taxi driver, Mr Stewart Bryk, against Lloyds underwriters who had offered the rewards.

The judge said Mr Bryk had been told the usual conditions for a reward. One was that information given would lead to recovery of the stolen property, but that had not happened.

The judge had said that Mr Bryk, of Roll Gardens, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex, played an important part in the extradition from America of Joseph "Shrivel Hand" Scallise and Arthur "Scarface" Rachel and in their conviction at the Central Criminal Court, where he was a crucial prosecution witness.

The gangsters were sentenced to 15 years for the raid at Graff Diamonds in Brompton Road, Brompton, west London, in 1980. Jewellery worth £1.5 million, including the famous Marlborough Diamond, was stolen.

After seeing a news item about the robbery and a reward of up to £50,000 offered in *Taxi* magazine, Mr Bryk gave information to police about two men he had picked up in his taxi and taken to Heathrow Airport.

The judge said Mr Bryk had been unaffected by threats and did not succumb to considerable bribes thought to have been made by associates of the two gangsters.

Sun is free to tell John story

Rock star Elton John yesterday withdrew an application for a High Court injunction stopping *The Sun* publishing a series of articles about his private life, after the paper agreed not to publish certain of the material.

After a private hearing before Mr Justice Roch, the newspaper's deputy legal manager, Mr Tom Cruise, said in a statement that the paper was free to publish the articles and intended to justify them.

"Last night, we showed Elton John's lawyers fresh evidence which has recently come into *The Sun's* hands," he said. "As a result of seeing that evidence, they have agreed to withdraw their application for an injunction on agreed terms."

Son will share in damages

A boy born four months after his father died in a farm accident is to share £31,500 damages awarded by the High Court in London yesterday.

Paul Dale, aged six, will share £8,500 with his mother, Sandra, of Maldon, Essex, who was living with David Kempen, a farm labourer. Mr Kempen's wife and son will receive the rest.

Ballot due on prison pay offer

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the Prison Officers' Association met Home Office officials yesterday for clarification of an offer on pay and conditions that could bring peace to the jail system.

It looks as if the Government's ploy of upgrading their offer by £4 million and sending details direct to individual members of staff is working. They are being balloted by the POA in May.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is wooing staff with a total of £24 million on top of the £280 million offered last summer.

His original proposals were rejected by the Prison Officers' Association on the grounds that they would result in unworkable prison regimes and dangerous manning levels.

The revised scales give a principal officer up to £18,000 a year and the rank below, a senior officer, £16,500. The rank-and-file incremental scale is now shorter and ranges up to £15,550 from a low point of £12,500.

Mr Hurd is seeking simplicity in working practices and teamwork and a reduction in overtime.

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No reward for crucial witness to robbery

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WORLD SUMMARY

More say Reagan dishonest on Iran

Washington — Two out of three Americans say they believe President Reagan is not telling the truth about the Iran-Contra affair, a sharp increase since a month ago, according to a new poll conducted for *The Washington Post* and ABC News (Christopher Thomas writes).

It shows that the President's overall approval rating has not improved, and that public scepticism about the affair has grown. Even so, the survey found that, by 2-1, Americans believe that he is honest.

The White House has conducted its own opinion poll, which shows that Mr Reagan is regarded generally as honest but as not having told the truth about Iran. It shows that Mr Reagan's support, which plunged after the sale of arms to Iran were disclosed, stabilized in February, but "has not significantly recovered" since then.

Sikh trial acquittals

Ottawa — Five Sikhs have been acquitted in Hamilton, Ontario, of charges of conspiring to commit terrorist acts in India, after the Crown prosecution refused to disclose secret information which it said would identify police informers and endanger their lives (John Best writes).

The five were arrested on June 14 on the basis of evidence collected by police telephone tapping. All were accused of plotting in Canada to blow up the Indian Parliament and other Indian government buildings and also of planning sabotage on a train and an oil depot, and the kidnapping of the son of an Indian MP.

Surgeon's holiday

Nicosia — Dr Pauline Cutting, aged 35, the British surgeon evacuated from Beirut, the besieged Palestinian refugee camp in Cyprus yesterday, in hiding from journalists (A Correspondent writes).

She did not stay at the Larnaca hotel into which she was booked, and failed to catch the London flight which a Palestinian Red Crescent official said she would take. "She is relaxing and does not want to be disturbed," a friend said, refusing to say where she was unwinding on the island after her 23-week ordeal. She will probably fly to London today.

Pakistan eases visas

Islamabad — Pakistan is to abolish visa requirements for Pakistanis holding dual Pakistani and British nationality, to allow normal contact with Britain (Hassan Akhtar writes).

Mr Mohammad Khan Jumeah, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who arrived home yesterday after a 10-day visit to the United Kingdom and Belgium, said he had also directed the Government to consider making it easier for other Britons to obtain visas for Pakistan. Islamabad imposed visa restrictions for British passport-holders in October, after new British immigration laws were introduced.

He said he was satisfied with talks he had held with Mrs Thatcher on Afghanistan and bilateral relations.

He also said he had discussed the issue of Pakistan's re-entry into the Commonwealth with Mr Shridath Ramphal, its Secretary-General, who told him its request had not yet been considered formally by member countries.



Coup bid arrests

Freetown (Reuters) — Two soldiers suspected of involvement in last month's attempt to oust President Momoh of Sierra Leone, left, have been arrested while trying to flee the country, police sources say. Lance Corporal Joseph Harding and Private Daniel Kai Kai had been heading for the Liberian frontier, they said.

Gulf cattle ship afire

Manama, Bahrain (AP) — A Philippines-based cargo ship loaded with cattle was set on fire yesterday after an apparent Iranian ship attack in the Gulf about 80 miles north-east of Qatar, Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported.

They said that the captain of the 17,950-ton *Corredale Express*, which is owned by a Manila company, put out a distress signal requesting aid. Tugboats were sent in its direction. The captain did not mention whether there were any casualties on board, nor if the cattle were caught in the fire, the executives said.

Arafat's optimism

Hare — The chairman of the PLO, Mr Yasser Arafat, said on a brief visit here yesterday he was more optimistic about the convening of a conference on Middle East peace because of "positive" statements from Washington, but appeared to rule out a healing of his split with the hardline Abu Nidal faction (Jan Raath writes).

● AMMAN: The Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Leo Tindemans, yesterday reaffirmed the commitment of the EEC to a Middle East conference (Reuters reports).

Duvalier cash held

New York (NYT) — A Manhattan judge has rejected arguments by Haiti's former president, Mr Jean-Claude Duvalier, and his wife that their personal fortunes should be protected under international law from seizure by Haiti's new Government.

The ruling, in which the judge ordered two New York bank accounts frozen pending a final decision, strips the Duvaliers of their claim that courts in the US have no jurisdiction because Mr Duvalier was a head of state when the accounts were established.

Rail sabotage as strike halts Spanish transport

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Railway power lines were sabotaged near Madrid, and pickets clashed with police in the southern port of Algeciras yesterday, as a nationwide strike of transport workers prevented Spaniards from travelling by rail, air or sea at an estimated loss to the economy of about 35 billion pesetas (£168 million).

The one-day strike, called by Spain's two main trade unions, the Socialist-led General Labour Union and the Communist Workers' Commissions, was part of industrial action expected to continue during next month. The principal demand is for wage rises above the 5 per cent ceiling called for by the Government.

Three explosions, believed to be linked to the strikes, occurred just after dawn in Madrid's central Castellana Avenue, causing damage to the glass facade of a bank's offices and at a building site. No one was hurt.

A few long-distance trains, scheduled in compliance with government-fixed minimum service requirements, were obstructed a short distance south

of the capital by downed power lines which railway officials said were sabotaged. In Barcelona, railway lines were blocked by obstacles placed on the tracks.

The strike by groundcrews of Spanish airlines forced the cancellation of almost all domestic flights, but did not interfere seriously with most scheduled foreign arrivals and departures.

Police intervened in Algeciras when pickets tried to stop workmen unloading a ferry from the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on the North African coast. The unrest also stopped crossings between the Spanish mainland and the Balearic and Canary Islands.

The strike forced millions of Spaniards, many of whom left home on Tuesday or earlier, to use private cars to reach destinations, mostly on the coasts, during traditional Easter Week holidays.

Strikes are expected to halt trains again on April 30, and on May 8, 15 and 29. Iberia Airlines employees are threatening to work to rule after the current 24-hour stoppage.

Moscow forges ahead in the propaganda battle as Shultz visit ends

Nato dismay at Kremlin's success

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

With a predictability that is the cause of increasing dismay among America's Nato allies, Mr George Shultz's three-day mission to Moscow has once again provided the well-oiled Kremlin propaganda machine with an easy victory over its less effective Washington counterpart.

"The Soviet side has won the information battle hands down, just as it did in Iceland last October and at the Geneva 'fireside summit' in 1985," an experienced West European diplomat observed yesterday. "What the Americans appear badly in need of is some Soviet *glasnost*."

Compared with the British, French and the Germans, they handle the press very poorly.

The anger about the highly restrictive information policy practised by the State Department team headed by its chief spokesman, Mr Charles Redman, (known to his questioners as "Chuck") has not been limited to the "non-American Western press" who, until shrill protests were made at a high level, were excluded from his briefings altogether.

Senior American correspondents have also expressed frustration at the lack of information provided by the Washington delegation, and the way in which most of the meagre scraps available have to be attributed to "a US official who would not be identified" (whom everyone involved knows full well is Mr Redman).

This American refusal to be pinpointed as the source of comment contrasted with the stylish performance of Mr Gerasimov, the Kremlin's chief spokesman (known to Western journalists by his nickname "Geronimo")

on Tuesday to an auditorium packed with more than 500 journalists and diplomats.

Mr Gerasimov, a former journalist, not only gave more solid information about the progress of Mr Shultz's talks, but also fielded all questions "on the record", never resorting to the State Department ploy of shielding behind anonymity. Employing his waspish sense of humour to the full, he also managed to convey the impression that he would have given even more information about the progress of the talks if Mr

The Soviet weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* published a letter yesterday from a labour camp inmate strongly criticising the penal system (Reuters reports from Moscow).

The letter, sent from a camp in Smolensk by V. Stavrovsky, was believed to mark the first time that comments from a serving prisoner have appeared in the Soviet press. Justifying the decision to print it, a *Literaturnaya Gazeta* commentator said he was convinced the public should know what happens in the camps.

Redman had not privately asked him not to.

Hand-picked by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to handle all major news conferences at home and abroad, Mr Gerasimov has also been available at a readily-accessible telephone in his Moscow office for all those journalists seeking additional information on the talks — all of it, naturally, heavily-scented from the Soviet viewpoint.

American journalistic anger came to a head in the small hours yesterday, when a group



Mr George Shultz at the US Embassy in Moscow yesterday meeting Mr Matvei Finkel and his American wife, Susan, who is trying to get her Russian husband out of the country.

of about 100 journalists were receiving a singularly uninformative briefing from Mr Redman — delayed without explanation for more than an hour — while missing the full, eight-page account of Mr Gorbachev's sweeping new missile order running on the Tass teleprinters. Mr Redman gave not the slightest hint that any offer had been made.

The timing and minute detail of the Tass account of Mr Shultz's 4½-hour Kremlin meeting with Mr Gorbachev excluded from mention on Tuesday night's Soviet television news — appeared part of a calculated Soviet tactic to try to influence negotiations

while they were in progress. Diplomats recalled that a similar strategy was employed in Reykjavik, when selected Soviet officials were prepared to leak tantalizing details of the Kremlin's new arms control package just before the vital last negotiating session between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev.

"There does not seem to be any logic behind the US policy of annoying people by saying nothing, or less than nothing, while the other side is stealing the thunder by putting its own proposals in the best possible light," one Moscow-based US correspondent said. "Our people seem increasingly nervous

about giving anything away." His complaint appeared justified later yesterday morning when the first reaction story on the dramatic new Gorbachev arms initiative by Reuters's State Department correspondent was headlined, unispiringly: "Shultz declines to comment on Gorbachev arms offer."

Earlier, Mr Gerasimov had been asked by a journalist who had difficulty in finding a seat why he allowed diplomats as well as journalists to attend his briefings. "Through the journalists we can influence public opinion," he responded with a grin. "And through the diplomats, their governments."

Fresh war of words on Afghan conflict

By Andrew McEwen

Diplomatic Correspondent

Moscow's long-expected bid to seize the propaganda initiative in the Afghan war was launched yesterday with a claim that Washington was determined to prevent withdrawal of Soviet forces.

American analysts have long predicted that Moscow's recent statement that it was ready to pull out — and offers by Dr Najib, the Afghan leader, to form a government of reconciliation — were part of a preparation to turn the tables on the West.

A press conference by a senior Soviet diplomat in London yesterday appeared to substantiate those fears. Mr Guerman Gventsadze, minister counsellor at the Soviet Embassy, said that the US had stepped up aid to the Mujahidin guerrillas.

He implied that no withdrawal and no accord at the Geneva talks would be possible without a change of tack by Washington.

"We are not going to abandon the Afghan Government and leave it alone to face outside intervention," he said. "Those who demand the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan do all they can to prevent them leaving."

"They don't really want the Soviet troops to be withdrawn, because that gives them a pretext to poison relations between the two countries."

However, he refused to say how many Soviet troops remained in Afghanistan, or to accept the Western argument that their presence constituted outside interference.

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Tripoli air raid anniversary: Libya celebrates ● Muslims rally ● White House rhetoric slows

Drums beat out as Gadaffi praised by foreign guests

Tripoli (AFP) — The well-orchestrated celebrations of the first anniversary of the US raid on Libya were marked by an all-night vigil and a visit early yesterday to the damaged house of the Libyan leader, Colonel Gadaffi.

About 400 foreign and Libyan guests are attending the ceremonies, including Mr Ron Brown, the British Labour MP, a delegation of American Indians, and an American radical militant.

Soon after 2 am local time a group of American Indians in traditional costumes began beating drums and dancing on a podium to mark the precise time when bombers sent by their own country started an 11-minute attack on Tripoli and Benghazi a year ago.

Colonel Gadaffi appeared only briefly during the vigil, but his name was acclaimed by many participants, who wished him long life.

The ceremonies had been launched on Tuesday with the first meeting of the World Congress for Solidarity with the people of the Libyan Jamahiriya (republic), during which the participants unanimously condemned state terrorism by the United States, describing it as the main obstacle to peace in the region. The American Indians,



Colonel Gadaffi with his 14-year-old son, Saidi, who said in Tripoli on the anniversary of the US bombing: "If defending our country is terrorism, then we are terrorists."

echoing their statements with drum beats, strongly attacked the Reagan Administration. Mr David Dellinger, who was a member of The Chicago Seven, a radical group active in the 1960s, told the congress that President Reagan's state terrorism was a blatant violation of the US Constitution.

A Soviet official spoke at length, saying that the Mediterranean region should be turned into a zone of peace. The meeting was followed by a peace march through Tripoli, ending at Green Square on the seafront. There, and everywhere else in Tripoli, photographs of civilians killed in the American raid have been put up on buildings to show that the raid did not only hit military targets.

● "Cowards' claim: Two of Colonel Gadaffi's children branded the Reagan Administration cowards and terrorists as Libya marked the anniversary with parades, flypasts and speeches (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Libyan radio and television, monitored by the BBC, carried a direct relay from Benghazi of celebrations yesterday, which included a military parade and a fly-past by warplanes.

The Libyan news agency Jana reported that two of Gadaffi's children had told a mass meeting in Tripoli on Tuesday night of "the horrors of the aborted American aggression which they experienced last year". It said that the children,

identified as Aisha and Hanibal, described how they found themselves "thrown against each other" as a result of the raids, and how, as the bombs dropped, they jumped to cuddle their other brothers and sisters.

"They described how their father, the leader, rushed to their rescue," Jana said.

It added: "They could not believe as children that they would be subjected to such a cowardly act by the American Administration."

The 16-month-old adopted daughter of Colonel Gadaffi was reported killed when his home was hit in the raid, and two sons were wounded.

A Foreign Ministry statement on Libyan Radio said that the main purpose of the US attack had been to assassinate Colonel Gadaffi.

It said: "Despite its political and military defeat at the hands of the Libyan people ... the United States is continuing its aggression by using all military, political, media and economic means."

"What is now taking place in Chad and along our southern border is but an extension and continuation of the flagrant aggression against the Libyan people."



Filipino Muslims burning an American flag and a portrait of President Reagan at a Manila shopping plaza yesterday in protest against the US bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi a year ago. There was a similar demonstration in Lafayette Park in Washington, where about 500 protesters, comprising mainly Libyan women and children but including American Indians and black Muslims, carried posters of Colonel Gadaffi shortly before he was to make a speech shown on American television by satellite.

US adopts low-key line on terrorism

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A year after American warplanes attacked Libya, the Reagan Administration has adopted a more subtle, low-key campaign against Colonel Gadaffi. The loud rhetoric about his terrorist activities has ended. Nobody is gloating in public about his stinging military defeat in Chad.

The Pentagon let the anniversary pass yesterday

● More cautious professionals now control policies. ●

with the briefest acknowledgment, saying that "terrorism and support for it is not cost free". It suggested there had been fewer terrorist attacks worldwide since the raid.

The policy of lowering the heat reflects changes in the staff of the National Security Council, where more cautious professionals now control policies towards Libya and terrorism in general. Senior officials have concluded that continual US criticism of Colonel Gadaffi gives him too much credibility.

President Reagan now rarely mentions state-sponsored terrorism. He has stopped giving detailed comments about the American hostages in Lebanon, believing that his pronouncements give exaggerated weight to the terrorists' demands. The aim is to stop hostage-taking being such an effective means of capturing world attention.

American officials say that Colonel Gadaffi is his own

worst enemy, and that trying to increase US and European pressure on him simply gives him a convenient excuse for his growing troubles. "Anything we tried to do now would distract attention from what Gadaffi has done to himself," a senior official said.

US analysts believe that discontent is rising among the Libyan military, that the country is in serious economic trouble because of plunging oil revenues, and that Colonel Gadaffi's grip on power is weaker than ever. But nobody is predicting his downfall.

According to State Department figures, terrorist actions in Europe by Middle East groups fell to 39 in 1986 from 74 in 1985. The drop is attributed to tighter security measures and to the expulsion of 100 Libyan diplomats from Western Europe.

Worldwide, however, terrorism has changed little. Mr Brian Jenkins, a specialist on terrorism for the Rand

● Worldwide, terrorism has changed little. ●

Corporation, a research organization, said that the total of acts of terrorism last year was lower than in 1985, but above the average of the years 1983 to 1985.

He believes that the main long-term effect of the US raid is that nations will take more care to conceal their involvement in terrorism because of fears of reprisals.

Americans flock back to holiday in Europe

From Charles Bremner, New York

Undeterred by the slump in the dollar and less worried about terrorism, Americans are flocking back to Europe for their holidays this year.

Airlines and travel agents report a surge of bookings, with Britain and Scandinavia — considered particularly safe — as the top choices.

"We're extremely optimistic," a British Airways official said in New York. "The whole thing of Libya and Chernobyl has blown away."

British Airways registered a 20 per cent rise in traffic in March and expects an 18 to 20 per cent jump in American travellers visiting the United Kingdom in summer. Americans are showing special interest in so-called value added fares, those which include such items as hotels and car hire. Mrs Natalie Kotch, a New York travel agent specializing in up-market tours, said: "People are not afraid any more, but all we need is a couple of big hijackings and they will all get nervous again."

Bookings for both luxury hotels and low price packages are up by between 15 to 20 per cent, according to the travel business. This suggests that Americans are not being put off by the fall in the dollar of about 20 per cent against European currencies since last summer.

Travel agents in New York say they expect a season almost as good as that of 1985, when 6.4-million Americans crossed the Atlantic on holiday. American Express expects a 90 per cent rise in passengers on its guided bus tours of Europe.

Last year Chernobyl and the rash of hijackings, airport attacks and the US-Libyan feud sent many Americans off to places like California and the Caribbean for their vacations.

This year the countries hardest hit by the 1986 tourist slump — Italy and Greece — have mounted expensive campaigns to woo Americans back.

Fanfani takes reins to ease way to election

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Italy yesterday gained a new caretaker Prime Minister, Signor Amintore Fanfani, right, commissioned to put together a government to guide the country towards an early general election.

Signor Fanfani, aged 79, is President of the Senate, the upper house of Parliament, and is thus viewed as being above political squabbles.

He is the latest — and probably the last — in a line of politicians asked by President Francesco Cossiga to find a way out of the crisis that began on March 3 with the resignation of Signor Bettino Craxi as Prime Minister.

His intention is to choose ministers and present them to the President and, if there is



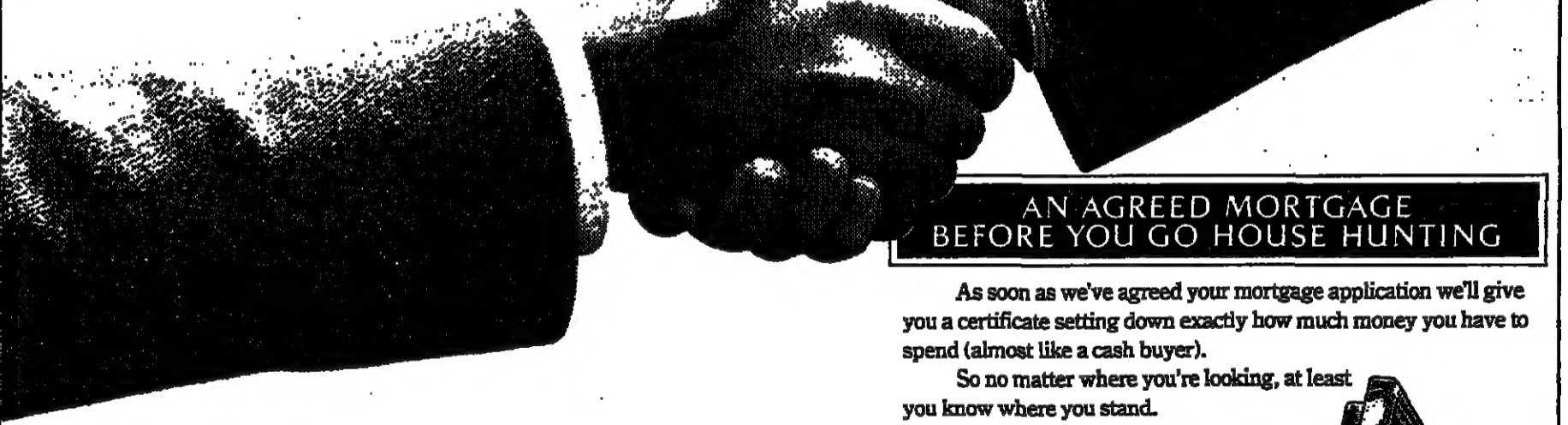
broad agreement, Signor Fanfani will be confirmed as the head of a transitional government. This list may not even be submitted to Parliament to avoid further delays. Parliament would then be dissolved and an election held in 45 days.

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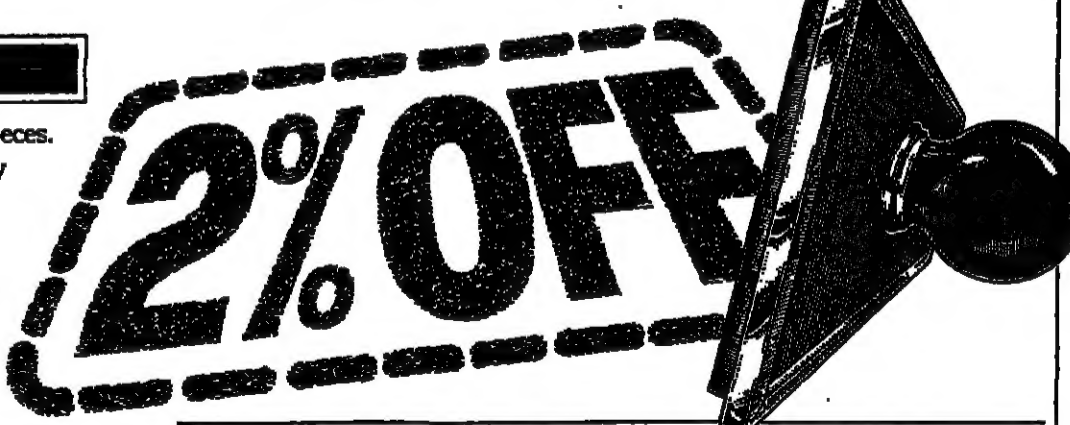
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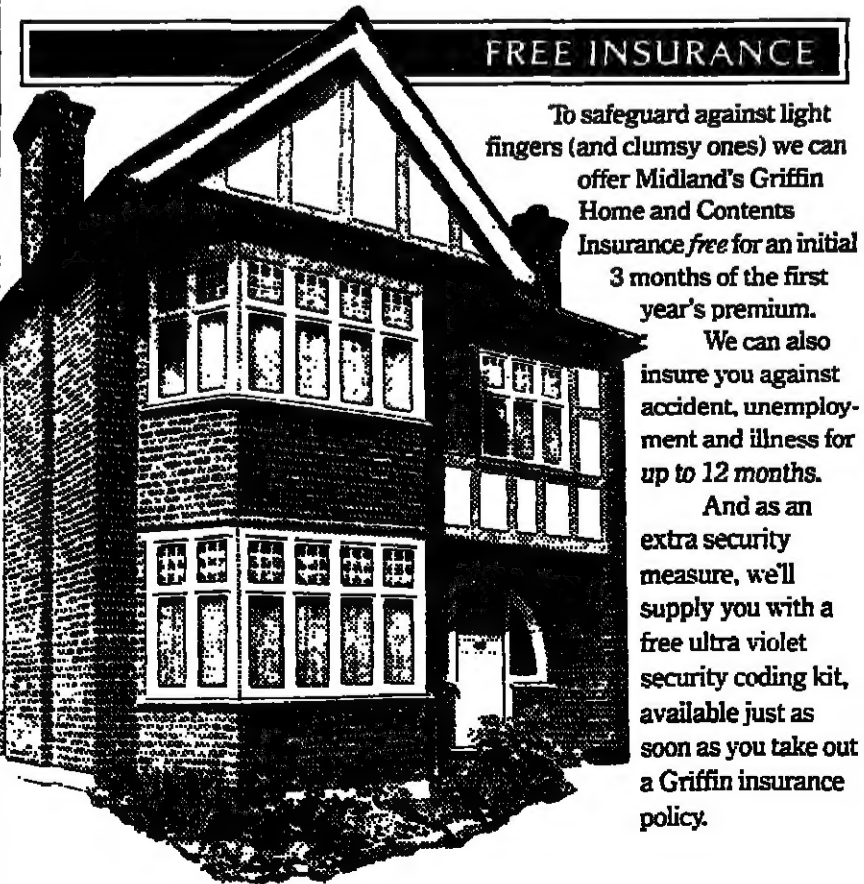
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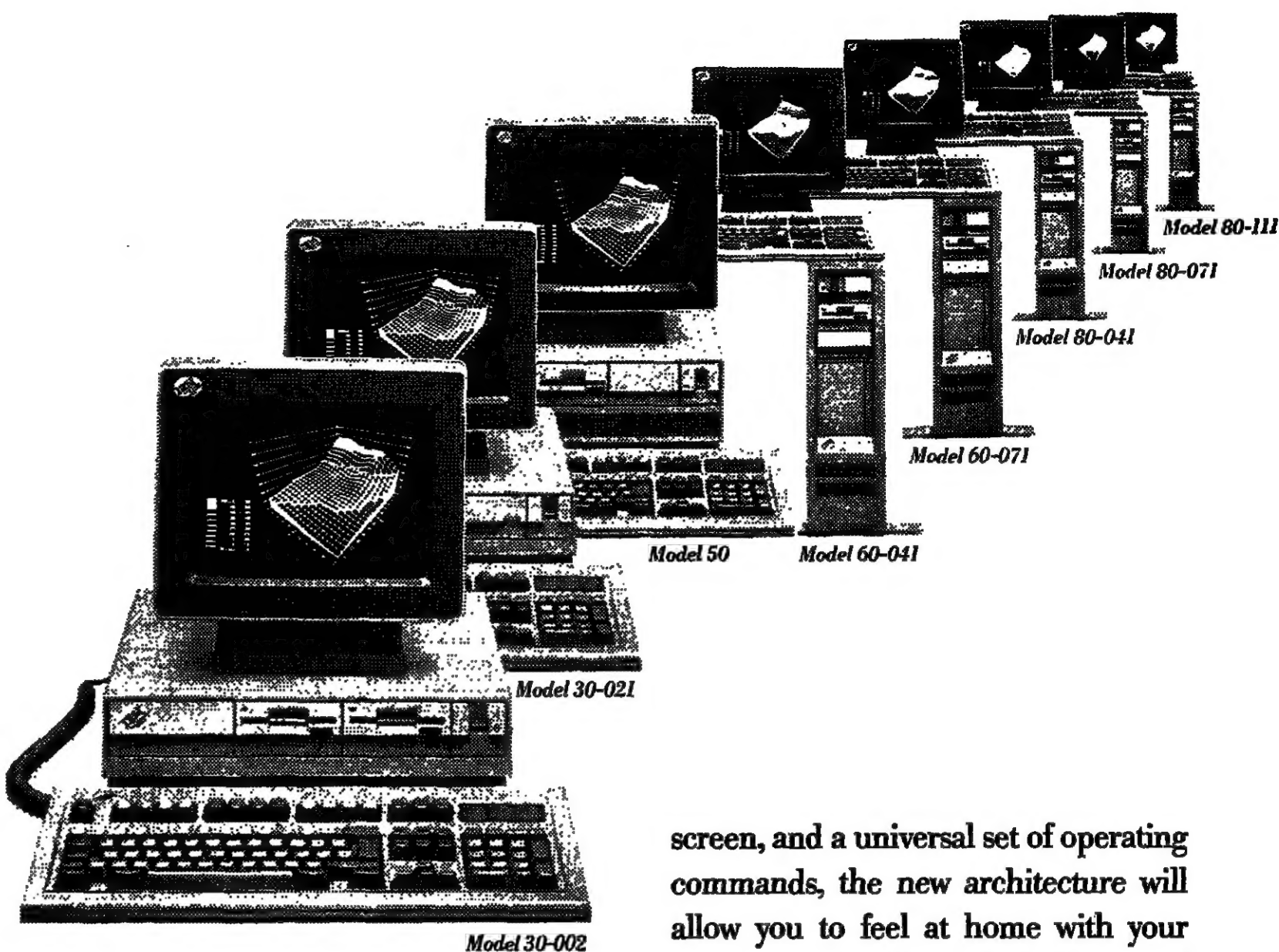
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French nuclear safety fears revived after new series of accidents

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Three accidents at French nuclear installations in the past fortnight have revived safety fears and provoked questions about the nuclear programme's future.

Since the early 1970s France has become the most "nuclearized" country in the world: 45 nuclear reactors are now in operation, with a further 14 under construction. Nuclear power accounts for 70 per cent of electricity produced in France, and for 27 per cent of the country's total energy requirements, compared with a mere 2 per cent in 1973.

A second leak of slightly radioactive uranium hexafluoride, or UF₆, gas from a uranium enrichment factory at the Tricastin site, near Pierrelatte, south of Lyons, was disclosed by the owners, Cogema, yesterday.

The leak, discovered on Tuesday night and immediately repaired, was a "minor incident" representing no danger to the environment or employees, though the results of medical tests are still awaited, Cogema said. Less than 4 oz of UF₆ escaped.

A more serious leak of the same gas occurred on Saturday night at the Comurhex factory, also at the Tricastin site.

Seven technicians were

slightly injured while repairing the leak, and production is expected to be interrupted for several days.

Although UF₆ is only slightly radioactive, it is highly toxic and splits into fluorine acid and uranium fluoride on contact with humid air, causing severe burns.

A third leak, this time of liquid sodium, occurred at the Superphenix fast-breeder nuclear reactor at Creys-Malville, north of Lyons, on March 31.

Although the sodium is not radioactive, it is highly dangerous as it ignites on contact with air.

After a two-week search, the source of the leak was found yesterday in the bottom of one of the sodium storage vessels. M Gilbert Labat, director of the plant, said that a minute crack had been discovered in the vessel's metal covering, allowing liquid sodium to escape at a rate of a little more than four gallons an hour.

Despite mounting public pressure for the plant to be closed until the causes of the leak were identified, it is still operating.

M Alain Madelin, the French Industry Minister, who visited the site yesterday, confirmed that the reactor

would not be shut "because no safety risk is involved".

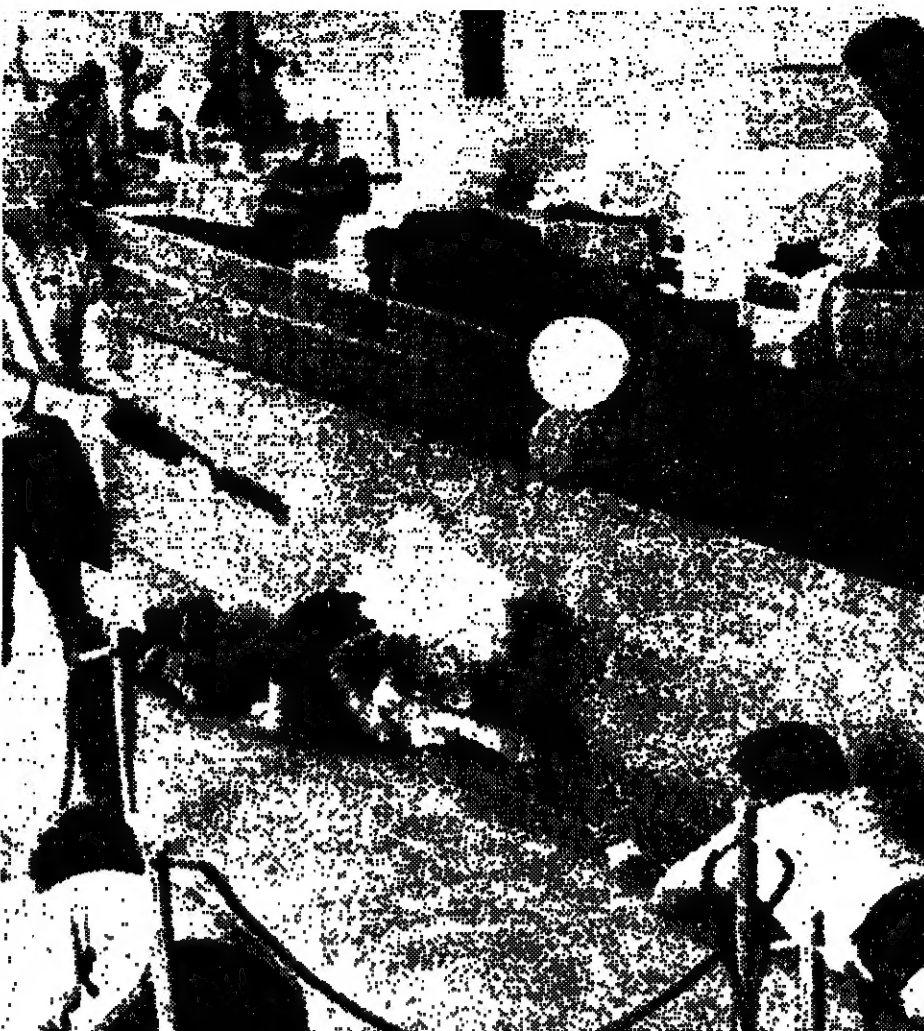
Last month, the left-wing *Liberation* newspaper reported that a crack had been detected in a safety circuit pipe in one of the four reactors at the Tricastin power station. It was repaired without incident, and the reactor was not closed down as required under nuclear safety regulations, it said.

There was, nevertheless, praise from outside observers yesterday for the Government's readiness to give the public detailed reports about relatively minor nuclear incidents, as agreed after the Chernobyl disaster a year ago, when the French public was kept in the dark about the dangers.

France has traditionally benefited from a national consensus on the advantages of nuclear power. But the Chernobyl disaster appears to have left its mark.

A recent poll, before the latest accidents, showed that a third of the French would move home if a nuclear installation were put within six miles of their home. But most said a debate on stopping or modifying the present nuclear programme would not influence the way they voted.

Shotgun terror in Adelaide bank



A hooded bank robber firing a sawn-off shotgun between a woman clutching her baby on the floor, partly obscured by gunsmoke, and a male customer in the Klemzig branch of the Australia New Zealand Bank in Adelaide on Tuesday as a security camera filmed the raid. No one was injured, and the robber fled.

Curbing Soviet influence

US tries to reopen Pretoria dialogue with black states

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

An American initiative is under way to reopen a dialogue between South Africa and its black-ruled neighbours which would ease the pressure for sanctions and establish the United States as the main arbiter in the region's conflicts in the wake of Soviet attempts to strengthen its military foothold there.

The effort is being spearheaded by an attempt to breathe new life into the 1984 Lusaka Accord between Angola and South Africa, which set up a disengagement zone in southern Angola as a confidence-building measure for the eventual withdrawal from Angola of Cuban troops.

Last week, for the first time in 18 months, senior US and Angolan officials met, in the Congo, to discuss ways of breaking the impasse over the presence of Cuban troops.

The meetings between Mr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, and Mr Manuel Alexandre Rodrigues, the Angolan Interior Minister, came amid reports that the Soviet Union is directing a build-up of Cuban and Angolan forces to counter advances by UNITA rebels led by Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Mr Crocker is said to be a leading advocate within the Reagan Administration of a policy that seeks to limit Soviet influence in southern Africa by promoting the US actively as the preferable alternative.

Three years ago, with the active engagement of the US, South Africa pulled off two astonishing diplomatic coups by persuading Angola and Mozambique to set aside their

abhorrence of apartheid and sign historic agreements with the Pretoria Government.

But after less than a year South Africa's efforts to establish a *Pax Pretoriana* in the region faltered and the disappointment led to strident calls for sanctions.

But now, according to diplomatic sources, the Reagan Administration is trying to exploit an opportunity created by what is being seen as a growing acknowledgement by the frontline states that economic sanctions coupled with Pretoria's retaliatory measures could undermine their very survival.

Misgivings about sanctions by the frontline states, with the exception of Zimbabwe, are being intimidated very clearly at the highest levels.

American officials are hoping to take those misgivings one step further and to translate them into a willingness to reach accommodations with South Africa.

Mr Crocker is to follow up his Congo discussions with more in Luanda this month with Angolan officials. It will be the first such meeting in Angola since the US Congress voted to supply UNITA rebels with \$15 million (\$9.4 million) in covert military support.

According to diplomatic sources, the US is also trying to shore up the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique.

Although Angola and Mozambique appear willing to explore a return to co-existence with South Africa, there is much scepticism over the ability of the US to deliver the Pretoria Government.

S African appeal on curbing ANC

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa yesterday called on foreign diplomats here to request their governments to put pressure on the outlawed African National Congress to stop using violence.

At a half-hour meeting attended by some 25 diplomats at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, the deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Carel van Hirschberg, also defended new regulations banning public protests against detention without trial.

Britain was represented by the minister at the British Embassy, Miss Tessa Selsby, who told Mr van Hirschberg that the Government opposed all forms of violence but also felt that the underlying political and social problems forming the context for violence had to be addressed.

She expressed "deep concern" about the large number of people detained, adding that Britain viewed the new restrictions on protest against detention as a "serious and worrying development".

Many diplomats were irritated at being summoned to the Union Buildings for the second time in less than a week to be lectured on the ANC. The turn-out was rather smaller and of lower rank than last Thursday, when the Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, was the lecturer.

On that occasion, Mr Botha claimed to have reliable intelligence that some 150 ANC guerrillas in three groups were making their way to South Africa through neighbouring countries to disrupt the May 6 general election.

There is a good deal of scepticism about Mr Botha's claim, generally felt to be part of the ruling National Party's election tactics.

If there is no violent disruption of the election, Pretoria will doubtless claim that it nipped the ANC plot in the bud, or that its timely warning prompted neighbouring governments to intercept the guerrillas. No one will ever know if there was a real threat.

New hint at Li's promotion

Peking (Reuters) — Mr Li Peng, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, will be too busy to go to Moscow for economic talks next month, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The announcement was seen as a hint that Mr Li may be heading for the premiership to replace Mr Zhao Ziyang, currently also acting secretary of the Communist Party.

Sudbury, Canada (AFP) — Four miners were buried under an ore avalanche in a copper and nickel mine in southern Ontario. Their fate was not known.

Police barred

Dakar (Reuters) — President Abdou Diouf of Senegal has suspended the country's striking civil police force, and sacked Mr Ibrahim Wone, the Interior Minister.

Rock death

Paris — A girl aged 16 was killed and two other teenagers injured when a falling rock hit the bus in which they were travelling near Barcelonnette in the Alpes de Haute province.

Cosy costume

Tokyo (Reuters) — Diamond merchants have unveiled the world's most expensive swimsuit — in black leather studded with diamonds and worth some \$920,000.

Audit order

Abidjan (Reuters) — President Doe of Liberia has ordered an immediate audit of the finances of the Internal Affairs Ministry.

Bank attack

Madrid (Reuters) — Two explosions blew out windows of a bank in central Madrid but no one was hurt.

Coup plot disclosed by Zambia

Lusaka (Reuters) — President Kaunda of Zambia said yesterday that South Africa had tried to overthrow his Government by working through Zambian businessmen who approached the Army for assistance in carrying out a coup.

Mr Kaunda said the plot failed when loyal officers reported it to him. He gave no indication when the alleged plot took place and did not say whether Zambian security forces had made any arrests.

"Some soldiers in the Army, young officers, have been approached by South Africa to take over power. But some of these loyal young men came to me and reported that is how we discovered it," he said.

The conspirators had wanted to introduce a multi-party system but this would be unworkable because of tribal conflicts, the President maintained. He said the businessmen were black and included former "government associates".

"You now see Zambians trooping to South Africa to dine and wine with colonels God forbid," he said the time had come for him, in the interests of the poor, to stop rich black people taking power.

Mr Kaunda: conspirators wanted multi-party system.

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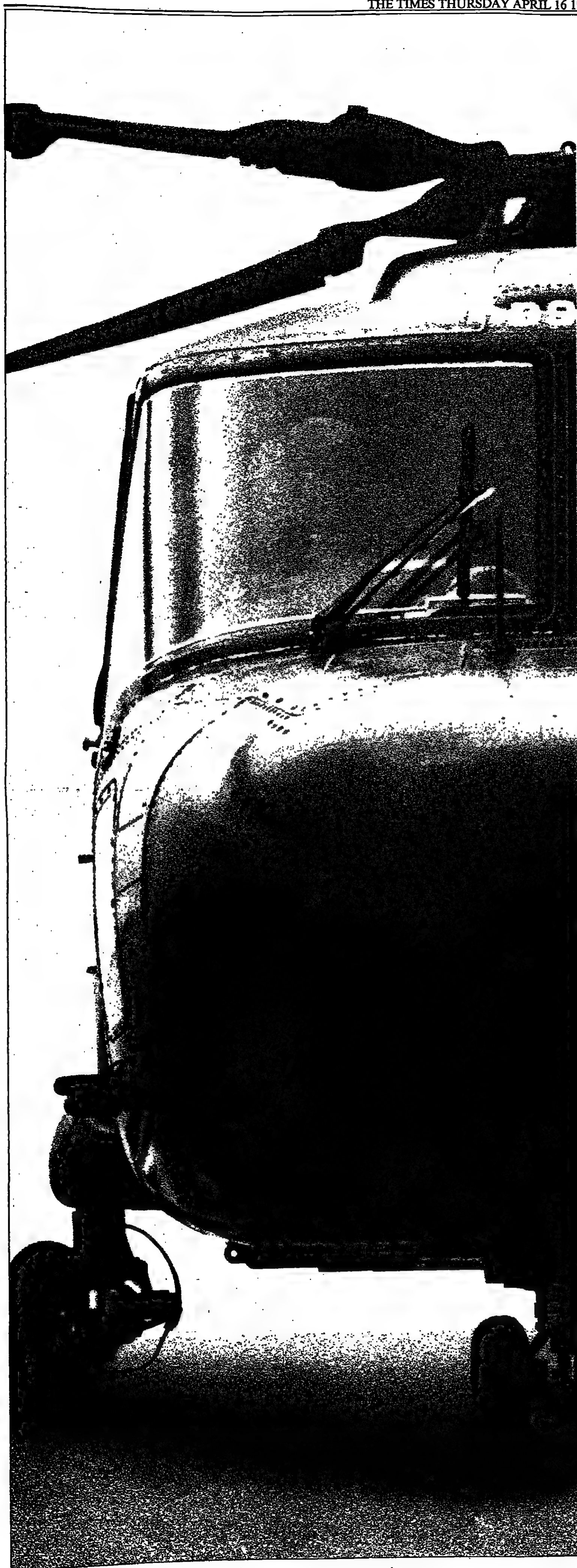
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Japan bu

Bank scandal
pockets of fait

exist South Yemen
the oil producer

Japan budget advances amid vote tumult

From David Watts
Tokyo

Amid uproar and scuffles, the Japanese Government yesterday railroaded the budget through the Lower House budget committee after weeks of confrontation with the Opposition.

The Speaker took a quick vote and declared the budget passed at the start of the session, with Opposition members barely seated. For several minutes, furious Opposition members of the Diet lambasted the Government for ignoring the democratic process. As the Speaker tried to restore control, a breakdown in the committee room communication system added to the confusion.

The Speaker rejected Opposition calls to declare the vote invalid. But despite the protests, a behind-the-scenes arrangement in which the Government led by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone as Prime Minister would modify much-reviled plans for overhauling the tax system cannot be ruled out. The Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party, Mr Noboru Takeshita, hinted at such an arrangement when he said that while the railroad had been unavoidable, the new taxes could be discussed later.

With time running out before Mr Nakasone's visit to Washington on April 29, the Government was daily threatened with a situation in which it would have no legislative package to offer President Reagan following demands



Opposition MPs protesting in Japan's Parliament yesterday after the Government forced controversial budget measures through the committee stage.

not even seated when it happened. This is outrageous," Another Socialist called the railroad "almost Fascist."

Miss Takako Doi, leader of the Socialists, said: "Three days ago Japanese voters voted overwhelmingly against the sales tax; and three days later the Nakasone Government perpetrates this atrocity. This unveils the real nature of the Nakasone Govern-

ment. We're getting to a level where democracy may be on the brink of collapse. We're resolved to scrap the sales tax. Mr Nakasone has done what he has done, and he'll have to assume responsibility."

But the railroad tactic was defended by a senior LDP member of the Diet, who commented: "With the Opposition party being so intransigent, we really didn't have a

choice. When you consider the situation in the international arena now, we must pass that budget now, no matter what."

The leader of the Clean Government Party, Mr Junya Yano, said that a lame-duck government was digging its own grave. "They must be kidding if they think the sheer power of numbers enables them to do anything they want."

Uproar in Indian Parliament over arms deal claims

Delhi (Reuters) — Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, sat impassively in India's Parliament yesterday as his Government was denounced as "steeped in corruption" during discussion of a possible \$23 million (£14.3 million) arms deal pay-off.

Members of the lower house shouted and exchanged catcalls during an unruly session in which opposition members sought to discuss the resignation on Sunday of the Defence Minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who had ordered an inquiry into the payment, reported by leading newspapers to have been made in 1981. His resignation has shaken the Government's credibility and tarnished Mr Gandhi's image as the "Mr Clean" of Indian politics.

"The Government and the ruling party is steeped in corruption," a Communist member, Mr Suresh Kurup, shouted after an attempt by a junior defence minister and close Gandhi aide, Mr Arun Singh, to explain the Government's position.

Both the opposition and the ruling Congress (I) Party had ordered their members to be present in both houses of Parliament.

Any anti-government motions and a no-confidence resolution against the lower house Speaker, Mr Balram

Jakhar, were doomed by the hefty Congress Party majorities in both houses.

In Mr Arun Singh's statement, made as Mr Gandhi sat calmly in the lower house, he said that the Prime Minister had, on assuming office in 1984, barred all payment of commissions to non-government agents of foreign defence suppliers.

Mr Arun Singh said that the former Defence Minister had asked the Finance Ministry to investigate possible tax and foreign-exchange violations in a "commission" apparently paid to an Indian living abroad and acting as an agent of a foreign defence contractor.

He said that information on the payment had been furnished by an Indian diplomatic mission early this year.

Citing "sensibilities pertaining to international relations", Mr Arun Singh gave no details of the contract in question, but recent newspaper reports have said that it involved the 1981 purchase of West German submarines.

An unruly upper house was adjourned briefly and then reconvened to discuss another controversy stirred by the former Defence Minister—the retention of a US detective agency to check on funds illegally held abroad by Indians.

Leading article, page 19

Colombian Church crisis

Bank scandal hits pockets of faithful

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

On Maundy Thursday four years ago the faith of many Roman Catholics in Colombia was tested sorely when an earthquake devastated the beautiful Spanish colonial city of Popayan, centre of the nation's Easter celebrations.

This Easter, however, it is as if an earthquake has struck at the very foundations of the Colombian Church itself, in the wake of a banking scandal being likened to the Marcos affair in Rome and outspoken comments by President Barco that the Church recognized as one of the most conservative in Latin America — a "root of evil".

As a result, the controversial concordat between Colombia and the Vatican, by which the Church wields considerable power in the "Republic of the Sacred

palatial mansion (price conservatively estimated at about \$650,000) in Bogotá, and is well known for his taste for good living.

"I ask myself if a 30-year-old entity, managed by human beings, can commit errors," he blusters. "Humanism can err. Yes, there were errors; but nobody stole a single centavo." He blames the Church's bankruptcy on recession and the previous government's economic policies.

Mr Galán now faces trial on multiple charges of violations of banking laws. There was an outcry when it was rumoured that the concordat would protect him from jail, if found guilty. This proved erroneous (though the concordat will allow him certain trial privileges denied ordinary citizens), and there is a growing likelihood that he will indeed serve a long prison term.

President Barco's remarks in a foreign press interview further fuelled debate over the concordat. Though he has claimed, somewhat unconvincingly, that he was misquoted, Señor Barco reportedly said that he had appointed a former president, Señor Julio César Turbay Ayala (1978-1982), as Ambassador to the Vatican because he had good connections in Rome, as shown by the annulling of his first marriage, and so was the ideal diplomat there for a government seeking to renegotiate the concordat, particularly on divorce.

Against Church opposition, civil marriage was introduced in the mid-1970s, but it is an option open only to couples marrying for the first time or for people previously married and divorced under civil law.

Indeed, Church-wed couples who wish to terminate their marriages cannot do so here. They must travel to neighbouring countries, and even on return the state does not recognize their divorces.

Vatican-sanctioned annulments can be obtained, but the process can take over a decade and is so costly that most couples prefer to get divorced and remarry abroad. Church annulments are seen as open only to the rich and influential, a view confirmed by the case of Señor Turbay Ayala.

His annulment triggered widespread cynicism because of reports of numerous indiscretions and because it was well known that he had already established a close relationship with another woman. He later married her — in church — last year, and was then appointed Ambassador to the Vatican.

Marxist South Yemen joins the oil producers

Aden (Reuters) — Impoverished South Yemen announced yesterday that it had found oil for the first time in commercial quantities. It is the last country on the Arabian peninsula to do so.

A government statement said that the country "joins the ranks of petroleum-producing countries, after oil was discovered in commercial quantities and good quality in the (north-west) Shabwa governorate."

Marxist-ruled South Yemen borders Saudi Arabia, the country with the world's largest oil reserves, but its search so far had been largely unsuccessful.

The statement, issued jointly by Mr Salah Abubakar bin

Hussainoun, Minister for Minerals and Energy, and Mr Yevgeny Kozlovsky, the Soviet Geology Minister, said that exploration, which began in 1985 had resulted in oil finds in three fields in Shabwa.

The Soviet firm Technoexport has been exploring in Shabwa, 190 miles north-east of Aden. Several other foreign companies are also drilling in the country.

The desert region of Shabwa is just across the border from North Yemen's newly discovered oilfields.

The statement, issued during a visit by Mr Kozlovsky, gave no details of the likely level of output or reserves, saying these were under study by Moscow and Aden.

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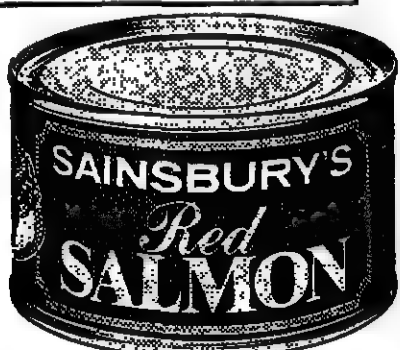
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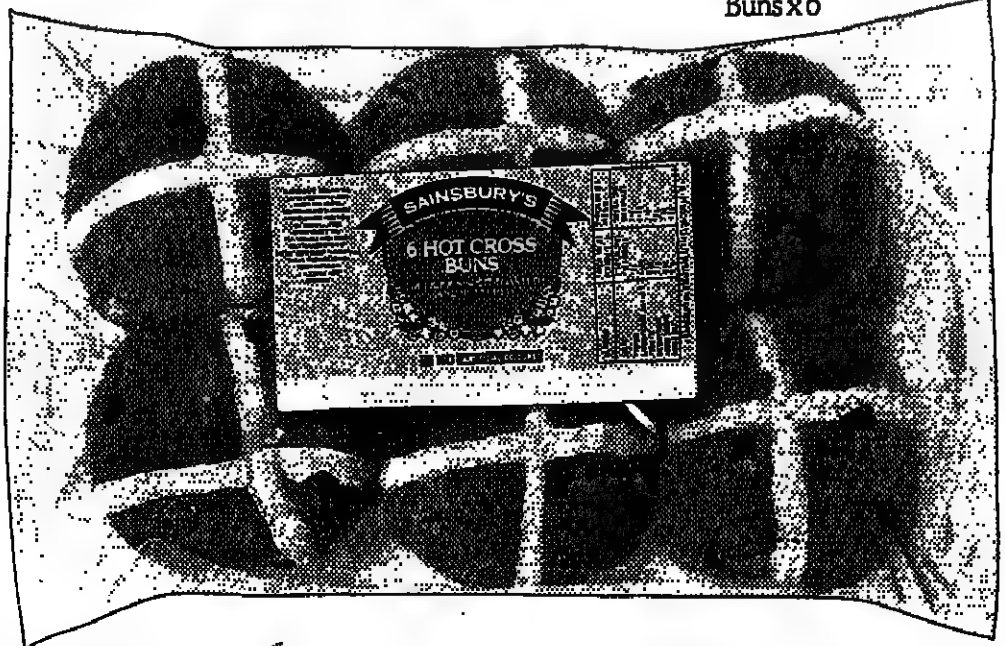


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SPECTRUM

Laird of Harrods at bay

THE TIMES PROFILE

MOHAMED AL-FAYED

In the quiet hours at 25,000 feet, flitting between the 10 or so homes he has in five countries, Mohamed Al-Fayed, the self-exiled Egyptian who owns Harrods, likes to sit on one of the sofas in his private jet and compose music on an electronic keyboard.

"Until this week," said a friend, "the tunes would probably have all come out a bit like 'Rule Britannia'. But now they will be battle hymns. He feels this country has let him down. He is hurt. He is angry."

What has upset Al-Fayed is the decision of the Government to refer to the Department of Trade for investigation his acquisition of Harrods and the House of Fraser retail empire two years ago for £615 million — which he sees as surrender to the long campaign by his arch-enemy, "Tiny" Rowland.

For 30 years, Mohamed Al-Fayed has lived in London a life of quiet splendour, accumulating vast wealth, dispensing lavish but discreet charity, while earning history's debt by preserving bits of the best of the past for the enjoyment of the future.

Of all this, he has preferred to say very little. Interviews have been few, photographs fewer, the perimeters of his reclusive life-style tightly kept. He would say little of his business, less of his feelings. But yesterday, in his beautiful office above Park Lane, he paced between the antiques and the porcelain in a fair old state.

The smile never left his face, his voice never rose a semi-tone, but the words were without restraint. "Yes, I am hurt. I have given the large part of myself to this country which became my home. A government I helped in ways of great importance has shown me now no respect."

"What can be the point of such an inquiry? Two other ministers looked in detail at the Harrods acquisition, and have been satisfied. Look here, I show you their letters. OK? So why now do they surrender to this man — to shut him up until after the election? It is a disgraceful thing."

"For 30 years I have done business in the City. Show me one



BIOGRAPHY

1933: Born in Egypt, January. Educated at private school and Alexandria University. Married twice, three children.
1981: Left Egypt when his shipping business was nationalized. Began ferry service taking pilgrims to Mecca.
1982: Became adviser to the rulers of Dubai on the building of a port.
1974: Served nine months on Loughborough board. Left after disagreement.
1985: Majority shareholding in House of Fraser. Cost: £615m.

man who has doubted my word. Now there is a shadow on my dignity and my honour. I can live without riches. I cannot live without a good name. A dog barked and the ministers listened." Mohamed Al-Fayed took from a cabinet three letters on the notepaper of Britain's leading construction companies. All, addressed to a Cabinet Minister, evaluating the work the family had secured for them in the Middle East. The total of the three figures was just under £2 billion.

The Al-Fayed share of this, he said, was 15 per cent, minimum. "A fraction of our international business. Does that make it seem that the Fayed family are poor? Paupers? Unable to buy Harrods even for £615 million with their own money?"

Al-Fayed's friends in the City of London will be much astonished by Mohamed's verbal counter-attack. They have long remarked on the family's tolerance to the chur-

within our society as the family calmly went about spreading among British companies as much as a third of its supposed £3 billion wealth acquired in the heady days of oil in the Gulf.

They tell of the reaction to the day Harrods was acquired. Three Arabs at the famous store are offering "feisty postcards, mister?" The Al-Fayed's reaction was gales of laughter, and a brisk discussion about which of the robed figures was supposed to be Mohamed, and which his brothers, Ali and Salah.

Thick skin was also needed when Mohamed acquired his Scottish castle: "I was driving up to talk about North Sea oil. I saw this beautiful monument to the past. And bought it. The locals were worried. Who was this bloody wog?" The locals now fall in behind the new laird, after he spent £1 million re-building a ruin, establishing a stag herd, revitalizing a distillery and giving work on his

33,000 acres. "I wear the Ross clan kilt. But the true thrill is knowing that a 600-year-old building will now stand another 500 years."

They were scarcely more civil at first in France, when "me, a bloody Egyptian, bought the famous Ritz hotel. Though I was going to bring it down. They had no idea how much I adore what is famous and noble of the past."

What he did was to spend another £30 million re-building the Ritz to standards of Pharaonic luxury — for which effort President Mitterrand made him a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur.

There were those who were worried, too, when he acquired the home, in the Bois de Boulogne, and all the furnishings of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. What would he do, make it a sort of Windsor Waxworks? His tact — which they say included having a Very Important Personage fly secretly to Paris to rummage through the relatives couple's belongings in case of anything embarrassing left be-

hind — and his proposals for the future of the establishment have now earned him the city's highest medal.

Like the buying of the Paris Ritz, the financing of *Chariots of Fire*, the steady acquisition of anything that speaks of excellence (for example, the company that made Churchill's siren-suits and now provides the Prince of Wales with his ties), the free-handed support of Great Ormond Street children's hospital, and the £3 million given to British charities last year, the Al-Fayed touch tends to be light and untrumpeted.

"Some of us were a bit wary when they came in," one of their bankers says. "Used to dealing with old wealth in the City. Bit nifty about massive money from the Middle East. But they showed in a day they are not the sort of people who try to begin business by handing out gold-plated Cadillac, not the sort you see peeling off thousand-buck bills in a casino. The Al-Fayeds, simply, were gent's."

The Lough feud is thus the more startling. "Tiny shot himself in the foot," another banker observes. "With both barrels. He tried to play Al-Fayed as a sucker, using him to warehouse the 30 per cent of Harrods share he had piled up over six years, thinking the Egyptians could never get the rest. But Mohamed had him over."

What happened is this. "Perhaps. The £140 million I gave him for his shares I had to spread around eight different banks for him. Yes, no doubt he felt he could get them back when it suited him. He gave me the chance on a golden tray — but it was the shareholders who gave me the company."

One story that most clearly backfired was an exposé about the Al-Fayed background: not the sons of wealthy Egyptian ship-owners who fled Alexandria in the face of Colonel Nasser's enmity, but instead the sons of a "mere Customs official."

"Call that an exposé?" Mohamed is said to have roared. "That is something to be ashamed of? The son of an official... of a British administration? Is that not something of which a son would be proud? But what was interesting, added the man who reported the incident, was that nothing would get Mohamed Al-Fayed, that most private of men, to say whether it was true or false."

Brian James

Switched on to 'audio Valium'

America's new age Yuppies discover our old-age music

What does the stressed-out New York baby-boomer put on his compact-disc player when he gets home after a heavy day of corporate take-overs? These days it's likely to be something New Age.

Designated variously as "New Age" and "New Age" for Yuppies, New Age music has entered the American big time. It is filling record shops and taking over radio stations.

Easier to discuss as a social phenomenon than to define, New Age music is usually serene, atmospheric, ethereal and purely instrumental, heavy on repetition and hi-tech effects. It draws on jazz and non-western forms, it combines the ancient and modern, the synthesizer and the harp.

Youngish Americans may just be latching on to the New Age, but any Brit over 30 has long known it under other names. Its precursors were the Moody Blues, Procol Harum and Pink Floyd of the late 1960s and early '70s, followed

by Brian Eno, the electronic German band Tangerine Dream and the layered synthesis of Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells*.

Windham Hill Records of California recently conducted a consumer survey of what has now become a \$4 billion industry. The audience falls mainly in the 25 to 40-year-old range, confirming that the style appeals most to the pop generation of the 1960s and '70s, tired of the Thompson Non-Interupts of '80s disco and rock.

There is a psychiatric explanation too. One Washington doctor pronounced last month: "It's no surprise that this type of music would appeal to young careerists. They hate their daily lives and they want a womblike refuge. It's a type of drug."

The latest sign of recognition has just come from Los Angeles, where the city's leading underground rock purveyor has just disavowed all its disc-jockeys, replacing them with actors presenting hourly vignettes of characters like "Steve", who "drives an early '70s Porsche and loves to snail".

Charles Bremner

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1234

ACROSS
1 Begin again (6)
4 Abstract (6)
9 Dark skin pigment (7)
10 Finger drum (5)
11 Jewish 12th month (4)
12 Wretched (7)
14 Pink-white seedings (6,5)
18 Redesign (7)
19 Winter (4)
22 Wanting (5)
24 Make bigger (7)
25 Scrapping weeds (6)
26 Humorous play (6)

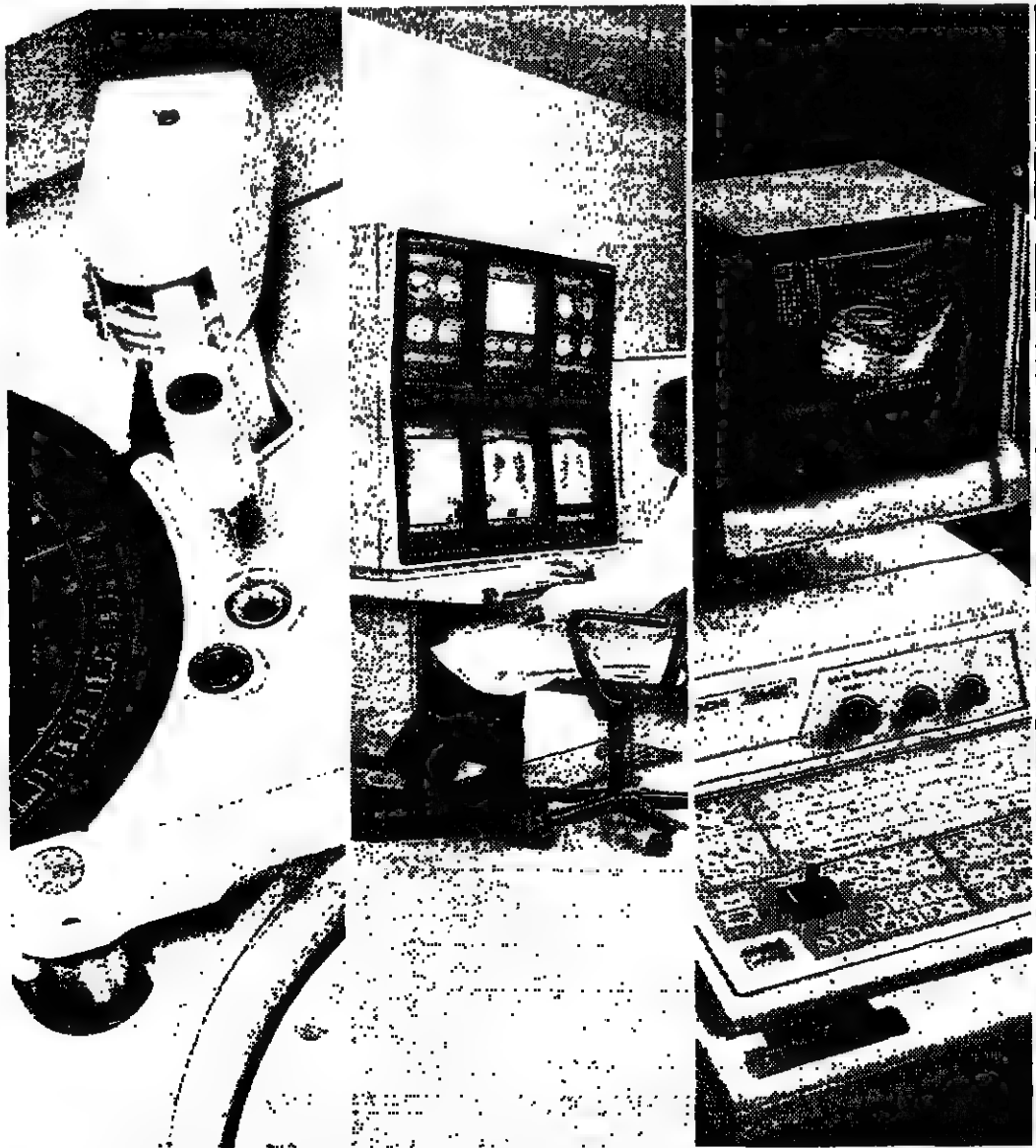
DOWN
1 Headquarters (4)
2 Firm (5)
3 Pacifism (3,6)
5 Hitch (3)
6 Vice (7)
7 Marriage partner (6)
15 Filthy (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 1233
ACROSS: 1 Big Apple 5 Plus 9 Groupie 10 Organ 11 Edson 12 Grain 13 Tasty 15 Foyer 16 Cing 18 Ennui 20 Music 21 Spinel 23 Yarn 24 Analysis

DOWN: 1 Biggie 2 Glossary 3 Pip 4 Liechtenstein 6 Lags 7 Smoky 8 Solstice 11 Entrench 14 Simsbury 15 Filmy 17 Greis 19 Emir 22 All

The Easter Prize Jumble Crossword will appear tomorrow

Medicine should be more than the ability to treat or cure. The best care and treatment come from precise diagnosis.



Hitachi's advances in medical electronics extend to automatic blood chemistry analysis, a Picture Archiving and Communications System, diagnostic ultrasonics and Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

Medical electronics have brought marvelous progress to diagnostic medicine in recent years. Great strides have been made in biochemical analysis, electron microscopes and medical information systems. Another shining example is the advent of imaging equipment which uses magnetic resonance to display even the most subtle changes in body chemistry.

Hitachi's scientists and engineers are now at work on an innovative system which will make it feasible to store, retrieve and use comprehensive diagnostic data from a wide array of imaging equipment — from the most sophisticated Magnetic Resonance Imaging units (MRI) to nuclear medicine, ultrasonic scanners and X-ray CT, to name just a few. This Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) should lead not only to more precise diagnosis but also to formation of research and education information networks which use medical image data to the fullest.

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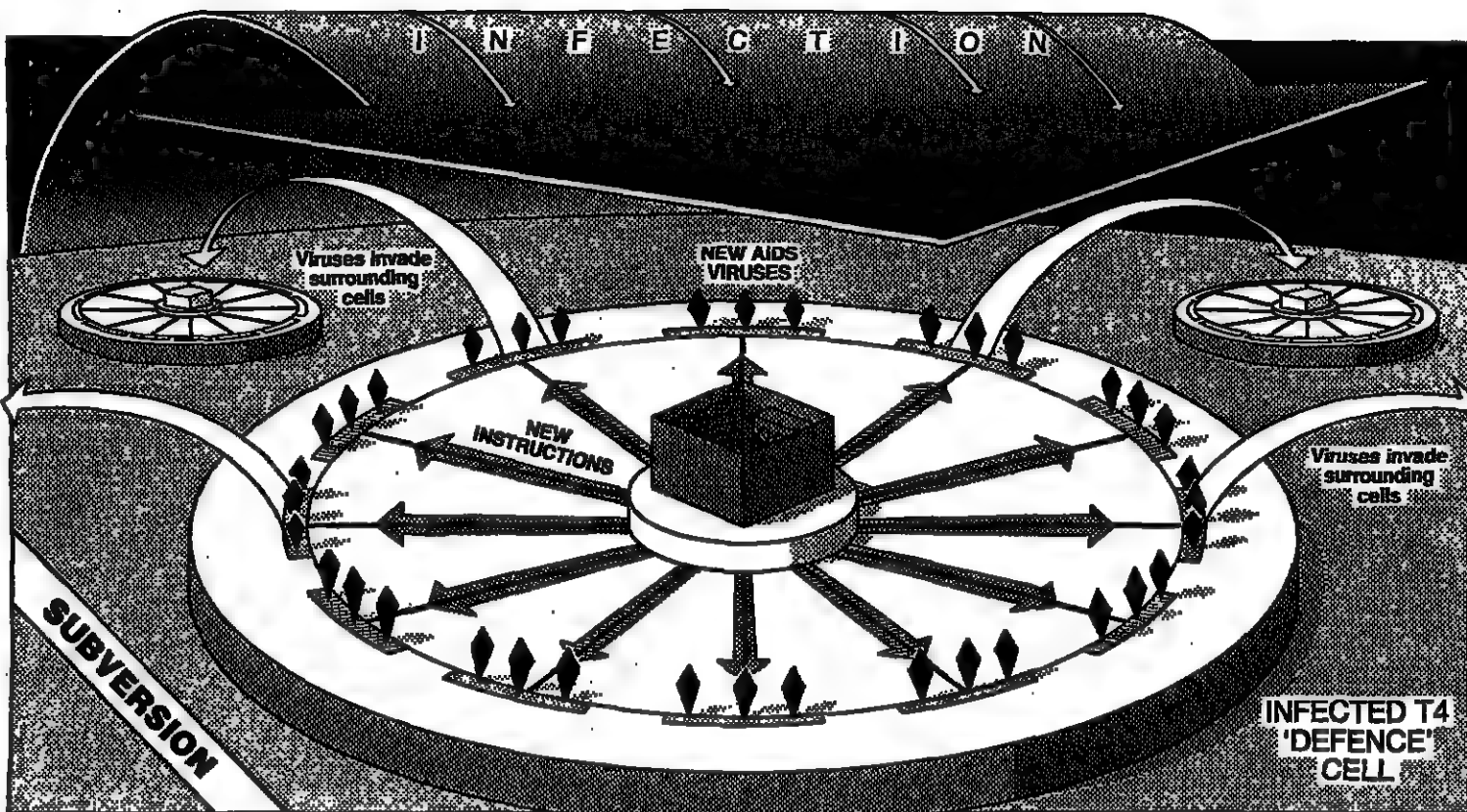
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MAY ELLE-CAST

Racing to kill a killer



public education campaigns warning them to avoid taking such risks? How are volunteers to be found, and how can they be motivated? Will they be drawn - homosexuals, bisexuals, prostitutes, drug addicts, their lovers, husbands or wives? Should the "high-risk" populations of central Africa become the human guinea pigs? How long should the tests run, given that the incubation period of the virus is not known? And how long remains a small light at the end of what is not so much a tunnel, but a very long and dark labyrinth.

These are the questions that governments stress the need for changes in behaviour to control the epidemic. By the time an immunization programme is launched, millions of people will have died. And even if the many millions more who become Aids carriers, the vaccine will be useless.

Fish is expensive and to achieve maximum advantage a diner would have to eat a salmon a day. But now, according to an exclusive report in *Pulse*, the Committee on Safety of Medicines is to license the prescription of Maxepa, concentrated fish oil, for the treatment of high blood levels of triglycerides. In future the NHS will provide two teaspoonfuls of oil (10 grammes) a day (the equivalent of 100g of salmon).

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

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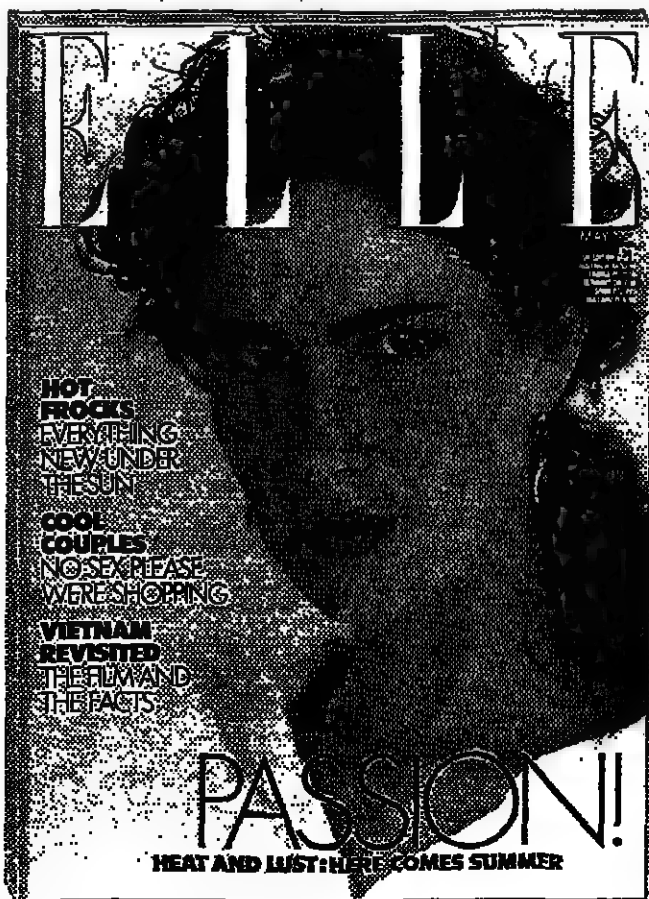
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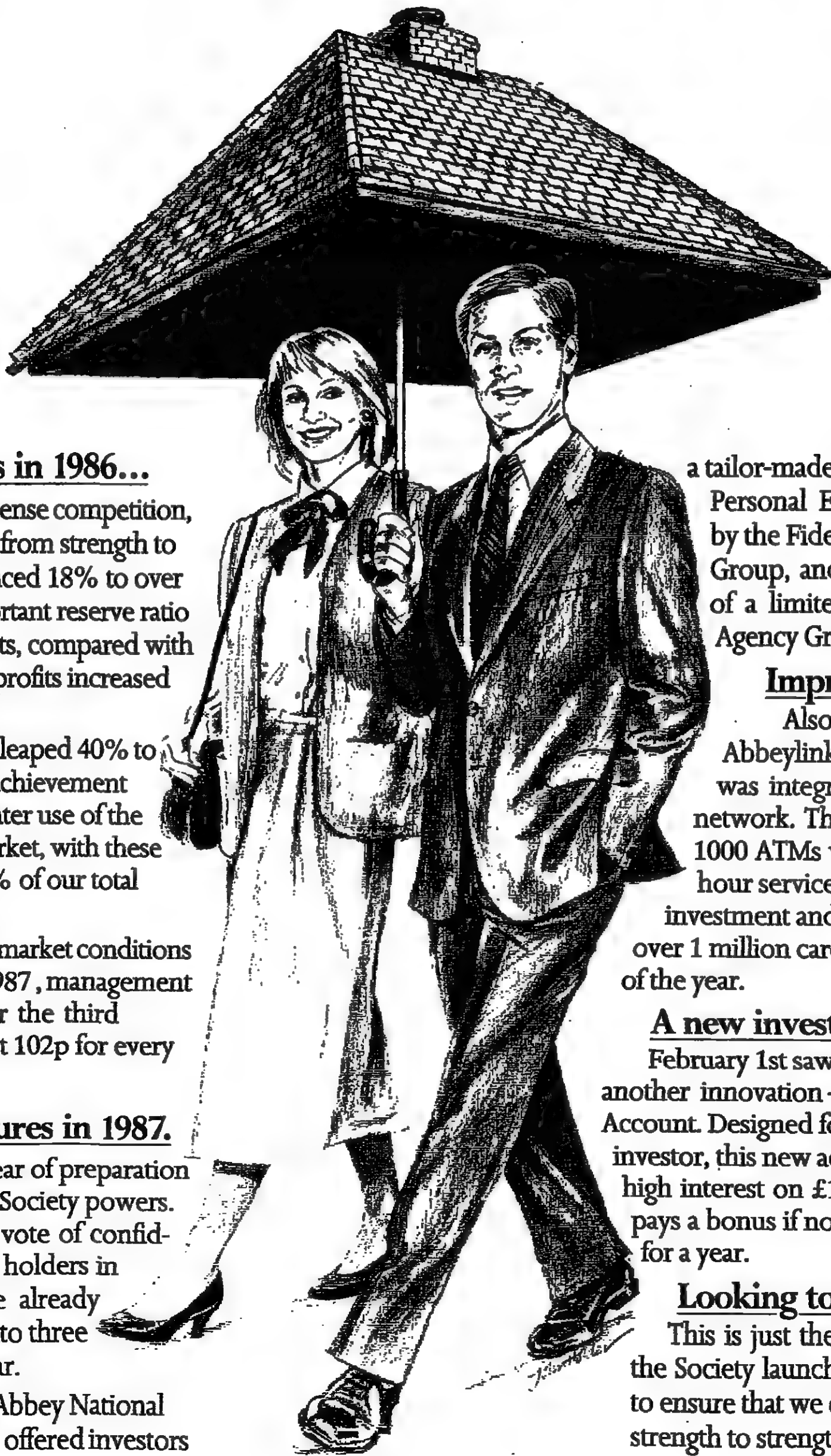
History or heresy?

Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor (left), the detective on Christ's track, challenges the accepted story of His final days

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ABBNEY NATIONAL AGM STATEMENT

MOVING AHEAD FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.



From success in 1986...

In 1986, against intense competition, Abbey National went from strength to strength. Assets advanced 18% to over £23 billion. The important reserve ratio rose to 4.03% of assets, compared with 3.87% in 1985, and profits increased 22% to £171 million.

Mortgage lending leaped 40% to over £6.2 billion, an achievement in part funded by greater use of the wholesale money market, with these funds now taking 11% of our total investment liability.

Yet, despite tough market conditions and investment for 1987, management costs went down for the third successive year to just 102p for every £100 of assets.

...to new ventures in 1987.

1986 was also a year of preparation for the new Building Society powers. Following a massive vote of confidence from our share holders in November, we have already been able to move into three new ventures this year.

On January 2nd, Abbey National launched Abbeyloan, offered investors

a tailor-made Abbey National Personal Equity Plan managed by the Fidelity Investment Group, and purchased the first of a limited number of Estate Agency Groups.

Improved service.

Also in January, our Abbeylink cash card service was integrated with the Link network. That means more than 1000 ATMs will be offering 24 hour service on three of our investment and savings accounts to over 1 million cardholders by the end of the year.

A new investment account.

February 1st saw us launch yet another innovation – the Sterling Asset Account. Designed for the long term investor, this new account not only pays high interest on £1,000 or more, but pays a bonus if no withdrawal is made for a year.

Looking to the future.

This is just the start. 1987 will see the Society launch more new services to ensure that we continue going from strength to strength.

Based on comments made by The Chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson, at the Abbey National AGM 15th April, 1987.

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BOOKS

Romance with a human face

Contrary to academic literary belief there is no real distinction between "popular" and "serious" novels; certainly it would have come as a great surprise to the 19th century. The only significant division is the simple one, that between good and bad fiction; and one of the most interesting aspects of the last decade has been the extent to which the better English novelists have been adopting what were once considered popular forms — historical fiction perhaps being the most notable — and using them for their own purposes.

So it is that Melvyn Bragg has taken what was once a great Romantic story to explore what has now become one of the most prominent themes in his work — the virtues of failure, contrasted with the strange and diminished world of success. This is the story of an impostor and a bigamist, a self-styled Colonel Hope, who travels to the North, where eventually he marries the "Maid of Buttermere", a young woman from the Lake District whose natural beauty inspired the dreams and confirmed the theories of various early 19th-century writers. Coleridge and De Quincey were both interested in what became a *cause célèbre* — Coleridge because of his interest in Nature, and De Quincey because of his equally Romantic preoccupation with crime. Now Melvyn Bragg has taken up the affair, and in the process has created a fascinating network of duplicity and adventure.

But the fascination springs essentially from his own attitude towards the material, since the theme of success allied with imposture, of failure leading to redemption, is at the centre of this book. The adventurer was once a "poor boy" aping his betters; the eponymous Maid is a piece of nature, slowly being transformed

Peter Ackroyd reviews a mixed bag of romances, blockbusters, bodice-rippers, and a seriously popular novel

THE MAID OF BUTTERMERE
By Melvyn Bragg
Hodder & Stoughton, £10.95
WIDE-ACRE
By Philippa Gregory
Viking, £10.95
DESTINY
By Sally Beauman
Bantam, £10.95

into Romantic artifice. What, or who, is real? This is a novel of confrontations, of argument, of characters divided within themselves, and one that perhaps necessarily must end in disaster. Bragg has a deep belief in innocence, a belief almost in the need to fail in order to be saved; and it is this secret source that gives his writing its energy and conviction. This is historical fiction with a human face, as it were, rather than a period mask.

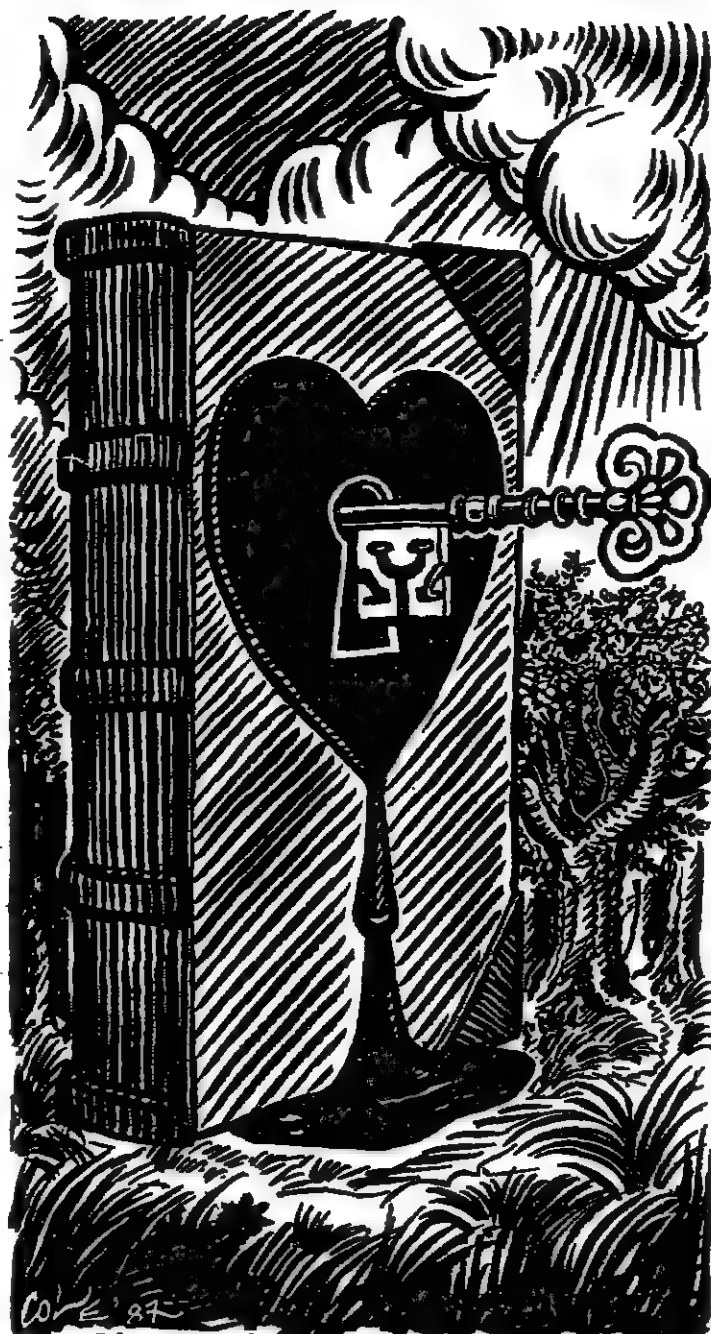
Perhaps most important it is a fine story, a once "popular" story, a significant story. And everyone needs stories: cosmology has now become a story, and quantum physics relies upon necessary fictions in order to explain the nature of matter. Man ought to be redefined as the story-telling animal, since this is the activity through which we helplessly and inevitably describe our world. There is no end to stories — and here, in *Wide-Acre*, is another one.

Wide-Acre might be described as a big book. They are a common sight, these granite blocks that are heaved into buses or wheeled onto tube trains, brought out with the aid of cranes from capacious handbags, and devoured in the various urban rush hours. Devoured is the right word, for this species of fictional pabulum creates the appetizing illusion of a complete, self-contained and escapable world. Reading the best of them is like watching a log-fire slowly burn.

Wide-Acre is actually a very engaging book — historical fiction presented in a much less complex way than in Melvyn Bragg's novel, but vigorous nonetheless. The 18th-century woman is a neglected creature (or at least she was until recently) but, in the figure of her heroine, Philippa Gregory has defined a certain kind of wildness, of female assertiveness, which may have a great deal to do with the 20th century, but which is here buttressed by the novelist's close understanding of the 18th.

Murder and incest are two of the less egregious elements in the book, but the danger of *Wide-Acre* turning into an historical farago is notably diminished by Philippa Gregory's powerful involvement in the story. This is a novel written from instinct, not out of calculation, and it shows.

The same cannot be said of *Destiny*, which has all the right effects in the right order (sex, film stars, sex, jewellery, sex, big business, sex) but never really becomes more than the sum of its increasingly disparate parts. Just as many popular novels of the last century were based upon stage



melodramas, so this particular version seems heavily reliant upon the models of film or television: the language is deracinated, false, on occasions almost impossible to read.

In fact its putative models are sophisticated: television soap-opera does not necessarily take itself seriously, for example, and it can include a range of parodic effects. But *Destiny* is entirely without a

sense of humour; it remains a flat, mechanical exercise with apparently no other purpose than to serve a particular if nebulous market. There are novels which can take popular taste and turn it into something quite powerful and strange (those of Daphne du Maurier are an example); there are others, and this is one, which reflect it at its crudest and most obvious.

Memoirs of a Mediocrity

Woodrow Wyatt

TIME AND CHANCE
By James Callaghan
Collins, £15.95

Mr Callaghan filled the four highest offices in the state with outstanding mediocrity: the pedestrian style of his memoirs admirably matches the achievements of the career he recounts. Though there is not a yawn on every page, the reader must endure a great many to find passages which come alive.

His father's death at 44 left a proudly independent Mrs Callaghan on a disgracefully low pension, with a desperate struggle to give her family a decent upbringing, which she valiantly did. If there had been a little more money about young James would have gone to university, instead of becoming at the age of 17 an inland revenue tax officer.

In the author's case, starting to earn his living so young was a great advantage to him subsequently. By the time he was 24, he was assistant secretary to the inland revenue staff federation, and on his way to creating priceless bonds with trade union leaders. After a commendable war in the Royal Navy, which he insisted on joining despite attempts to stop him on the grounds that his work as a union official was of national importance, he became an MP in 1945 and resumed his trade union job.

But it was the glamour of political power and fame that young James sought; and in 1947 he became a junior minister, staying on the Labour front bench for the next 33 years. He was never ashamed, nor should he have been, of his political ambition; though Mr Attlee early told him that none had a prescriptive right to promotion, when James indignantly asked why Frank Pakenham, and not he, had been made First Lord of the Admiralty in 1951.

There was nothing to fear. Callaghan's assiduous attentions to trade union leaders got him the key Labour Party post of Treasurer in 1967, which he held until he was Prime Minister in 1976. His public betrayal, while a Cabinet Minister, of the Wilson-Castle attempts at trade union reform consolidated his support among

many Labour MPs, and the unrepresentative trade union leaders. Mr Callaghan was either too dim to see, or did not care that Labour's retreat from trade union reform was to be a major part of its undoing. But by that time he had been Prime Minister for three years, clinging on tenaciously, but without purpose, until dislodged by a lost vote of confidence.

The most entertaining part of the book discloses the cunning manipulations of the author, juggling with the Liberals and all comers to stay Prime Minister as long as he did. It reveals starkly the horrors of a post-Wilson Labour Government (which had been bad enough), in lock to trade union leaders and a Left-dominated Labour National Executive. It is not a pretty picture.

Mr Callaghan quotes at length from his speech, partly written for him by his son-in-law Peter Jay, at the 1976 Labour Conference, in which he announced that the spending had to stop. He omits his more significant reference to "a new factor creeping into the Party, which I warn against — namely those elements... who seek to infiltrate our Party and use it to their own ends." He and Mr Wilson will be convicted at the bar of history for their failure to prevent, when they could have, the Labour Party becoming unacceptably extremist. This led to the emergence of the SDP, and probably to Labour's terminal illness.

However, despite his many defects, Mr Callaghan remains as sturdy a patriot as his parents would have wished. He has not been afraid of the odium from his old colleagues for staunchly condemning abandonment of the British nuclear deterrent; though it seems he may have been silenced on this matter from now on until after polling day.

Glesga Rough literature

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Something strange happened in the remote, old country house that unnaturally hot summer of 1976...

RUTH RENDELL
WRITING AS
BARBARA VINE
A Fatal Inversion



The works of James Kelman are not a comfortable read. He writes in a flat plain style embellished by the very occasional deliberate grammatical distortion, and is made idiosyncratic by the hard Glaswegian voice of his characters and narrators, and by his peculiar vision that lifts these scenes from Glasgow life into a universal literature.

His latest book, *Greyhound for Breakfast*, follows two novels which contained all the strengths of his earlier short pieces, but strained over the long stretch. In this new collection of stories, however, Kelman's world is displayed to best effect in glimpses into lives dictated by unemployment.

Other Kelman pieces are strange interior monologues which illuminate the world of those on the fringes of society ("Old Francis") and also short, short pieces of 20 lines or so that capture a moment, a thought, an irony.

Despite the naturalism of his settings and dialogue, there is a nightmarish, unreal quality about Kelman's work. He pays homage to Kafka in his story "In with the Doctor" (in which a patient, though treated with friendliness, is never actually examined). Through his eyes Glasgow get a treatment that has its literary roots in Europe rather than Britain. *A Summons to Memphis*, by Peter Taylor, though firmly set in the American South, takes its structure and content from Freud; or at least from the psychoanalytic movement. Peter Taylor has previously concentrated on short stories; and, like Kelman, seems not to be a distance

runner. This novel, despite its many qualities, should have been a novella.

Phillip Carver, only surviving son of the Southern Carver family, narrates this family history, prompted by the sudden desire of his 61-year-old widowed father to marry again against the wishes of Phillip's two unmarried sisters. The family trauma revolves around a financial scandal and betrayal, which obliged the autocratic Father Carver to move his wife and adolescent family from Nashville to Memphis. This geographical change is charged with cultural overtones, which subtly play havoc with the precarious adolescent sensibilities of the four children.

The slow uncovering of the emotional complexities that have led to the children's desire for revenge, and the coming to consciousness of their motivations form the novel's narrative. If it is a

FICTION

Gillian Greenwood

GREYHOUND FOR BREAKFAST
By James Kelman
Secker & Warburg, £10.95
A SUMMONS TO MEMPHIS
By Peter Taylor
Chatto & Windus, £10.95
THE STORIES OF MURIEL SPARK
By Muriel Spark
The Bodley Head, £12.95



Misogynistic: James Kelman

familiar story, it is one that is well crafted, except in the introduction of a family friend, Alex, who seems intended to act as some sort of measure of normality. He falls both as a character and as a device. The novel is also too drawn out to maintain the intensity of the incestuous and murderous childhood longings, which are so successfully drawn behind the middle-aged facade; and the pace slows too far to sustain the final ironies.

"The higher mountain reaches were beyond me except by bus, I was anxious, however, to scale the peaks of Frau Lublonitsch's nature." In this quotation from "The Ormolu Clock", one of the 27 stories in this complete collection of Muriel Spark's short fiction, she states an intention that has consistently underpinned her work over the last 30 years. Mrs Spark, never analyses or explains her characters, but reveals their capricious cross-currents against a background where eternal truths do battle with more worldly concerns.

This collection of her stories is arranged chronologically, and shows not only some stylistic development, but is particularly interesting for the period detail and fashionable mores she assimilates and uses. In "The Black Madonna", an early story, she perfectly describes the aspirations and surface liberalism of an upwardly mobile 50s couple who befriend and parade two recent Jamaican immigrants. (They receive a Catholic consecration to test their charity which shows Muriel Spark's comedy at its most black.) The racism and snobbery of that particular moment are caught so finely that they transcend their narrow period, to seem timeless.

Closer to the present, Muriel Spark has entered a world where unmarried women pick up truck drivers in Italy with casual ease and a degree of social acceptability ("The Dragon") but we are still in her quirky fantastic, yet recognisable world, where the supernatural coexists with the factual and the domestic. Each story is an enthralling piece of Mrs Spark's art.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:
American Romanticism, by David Morse (Macmillan, £25)
Castro, by Peter Bourne (Macmillan, £14.95) Psycho-politics leaves From The Garden, edited by Clare Best and Caroline Boland (John Murray, £14.95). Two centuries of garden writing Londoners, by Colina Fox (Thames & Hudson, £20) Images and prose about the people by keeper at Museum of London Marxism in the USA, by Paul Buhle (Verso, £8.95) From 1870 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Selected Letters, edited by H.J. Jackson (Oxford, £19.50) Pick of the post of intense scribe Stella Benson, by Joy Grant (Macmillan, £18.95) Born but forgotten writer, novelist, and diarist of the 20s Troublesome People, Enemies of War 1918-1986, by Caroline Moorhead (Harrish Hamilton, £14.95) All shades of pacifist from "conches" to Greenham with shrewd sympathy Twentieth Century Type Designers, by Sebastian Carter (Trafalgar, £14.95) From our Morson to Frutiger in type Women in Southern Africa, edited by Christine Quanta (Allison & Busby, £12.95) Black interviews, essays, lives

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THE TIMES DIARY

Terror squad

The European fight against terrorism is to be given a boost. The Trevi Group of EEC interior ministers, set up 12 years ago to co-ordinate the efforts of member states' police forces, looks set to become a permanent organization. A widely supported Belgian proposal to be discussed at its meeting in Brussels on April 27 would create a secretariat. British police forces are abuzz with rumours that the chief constable of Surrey, Brian Hayes, is in line for a top job. But a more likely candidate, I am told, would be a Home Office civil servant. One reason for the increased importance of Trevi (so-called because its inaugural chairman's name was Fontana) is that Interpol is considered hampered in its anti-terrorist activities because Libya is a member.

Red Clydeside

The spirit of *glasnost* is alive and well at Strathclyde University. Today Vladimir Karpov, the former editor-in-chief of *Novy Mir* (New World) and the first secretary of the Union of Soviet Writers, is awarded an honorary D Litt. Karpov, author of patriotic war novels, who was a political prisoner under Stalin, came to Strathclyde's attention last year when his interest in the recently rehabilitated Russian poet Gumilev brought him into contact with the university's Russian studies department. It will be a rare distinction for the eight other honorary graduates to rub shoulders with a Hero of the Soviet Union and member of the Supreme Soviet.

Going, gone

Sotheby's is being hit by an exodus of talent, despite its recent record-breaking sales of canvases and jewels. I hear that in the space of one week the auctioneers have lost Eric Tourquain, director of the Old Masters department, as well as Max Rutherford (19th-century Continental) and David Moore Gwynn (British paintings). The malaise, moreover, seems to have spread across the Channel. The head of Sotheby's Paris, Marc Blondeau, decided last week to leave after 18 years at the helm. "I'm looking for new horizons," he tells me.

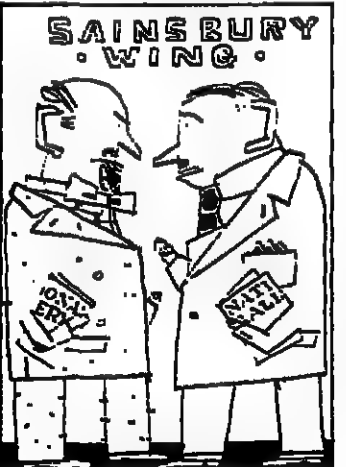
Plaque remover

More work for the district auditor, Mary Leigh, the Tory leader on Lambeth council in London, is to complain to him about the ruling Labour regime's latest plans for town hall fixtures and fittings. A £1,000 banner held aloft by disqualified councillors on a march to the Old Bailey is to be housed in a glass case costing £450, while £4,500 is being spent on a plaque commemorating South Africa's Sharpeville massacre. "I know their dodge," she tells me. "They'll justify it under the Local Government Act by saying the spending is in the interest of part of the community. Even disqualified councillors are part of the community."

Hog horror

Near-tragedy at the Olympia Book Fair: having brought down a collection of animals to promote *The Zoo in the Garden*, its publishers discovered on their return that Amadeus the hedgehog had disappeared. A security guard finally found him trundling down an aisle in the early hours of yesterday morning. "Thank heavens it wasn't the bird-eating spider," say Box Tree Books.

BARRY FANTONI



Kind to Kinnoek

As his political fortunes worsen, Neil Kinnoek may soon be in need of the sort of sympathy he was offered back in the dark days of the 1984 miners' strike. Then, as the criticism intensified, Hugh Gaiskell's widow, over 80 and suffering from severe arthritis, hobbled through Parliament's long corridors to Kinnoek's room. "I think they're all snobs," Lady Gaiskell began, referring to his newspaper critics. "I travel on the buses and the people on the buses aren't snobs and they think you're a good man." Telling the story in his new book on the Labour leader, Michael Leapman says Kinnoek finally inquired why she had come to see him. "That was all I wanted to say," she replied and left. The bad news for Kinnoek is that his sixth-former son, Stephen, is thinking of taking a career in journalism. If you can't beat them...

PHS

How big a nuclear melting-pot?

by Michael Evans

The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, has opened another door. With immaculate timing, he has offered to dismantle all the Soviet SS12 and SS23 missiles in Europe which have a short range of between 300 and 600 miles. Thus he meets with one throw the fears of Britain, West Germany and other Nato countries that have been in a state of nervous tension ever since the cluster of initiatives from Moscow has created the prospect of a nuclear-free Europe. Or does he?

In fact the reverse is true. As each nuclear layer has been stripped away by Gorbachev, the allied governments have instantly switched their focus of alarm to other Soviet missiles which remain a potent threat to the security of Europe. It has become in some ways a safety-net mechanism. Leaders such as Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany do not accept that a Europe denuclearized would be a safer place.

So when Gorbachev offered to accept the Nato concept of zero option for medium-range missiles — the Soviet SS20 and Nato's cruise and Pershing 2 with ranges from 1,120 to 3,100 miles — they warned that the shorter-range weapons would have to be included. First the Russians threw up their hands in apparent bewilderment. Now Gorbachev

has said: "Okay, we'll scrap the lot."

Everyone should be happy. But Nato's commanders are wondering where it's all going to end. The strategy for the defence of Europe is based on the reasoning that since Nato could not afford to match the Soviet Union's overwhelming superiority in conventional forces, it has to rely on nuclear weapons for deterrence.

If the medium- and short-range nuclear missiles down to a range of 300 miles are eliminated, on the ground level you are left with just two layers of nuclear defence.

First, the so-called operational tactical nuclear weapons: on the West's side, Lance missiles with a range of about 70 miles and French Pluton missiles with a 75-mile range; and on the Soviet side, the Scud and Frog missiles with ranges from 44 to 187 miles.

Second, the multitude of battlefield tactical weapons, the nuclear-capable artillery shells with ranges up to about 17 miles.

Nato is engaged in updating these tactical weapons, following a decision in 1983 by Nato's defence ministers. The artillery shells, for example, which have a conventional and nuclear capability, are to be given a longer range and greater explosive power. Are

these, too, to be thrown into the melting-pot?

The problem is that if the superpower momentum for an arms-control deal, directly affecting Europe, continues at its present heady pace, Nato commanders will be forced to rethink the whole concept of the modern battlefield, and European governments will need to spend much more on conventional forces to maintain sufficient deterrence. This seems highly unlikely.

The Soviet Union has increasingly matched the West in the technical sophistication of its conventional weapons and enjoys an advantage of 2½ to 1 over Nato in tanks and artillery. With defence budgets coming under more and more pressure, it is inevitable that conventional weapons, which are enormously expensive to update, will feel the pinch.

Since November 1984, Nato has adopted a new concept of conventional defence called Follow-on-Forces Attack. Its principal objective is to destroy, with sophisticated multiple-warhead weapons and targeting systems, the Warsaw Pact's second-echelon forces which would follow a main attack.

The introduction of these pre-

cision-guided "smart" munitions would raise the nuclear threshold in Europe because technically they would be capable of carrying out the task that at present would depend on battlefield nuclear weapons — halting a massive advance of Soviet tanks.

But many of these emerging technologies are experimental and the cost will be prohibitive. General Bernard Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, has said that this technology could be purchased for a real annual increase of 4 per cent in defence budgets. In Britain's case, that is out of the question. This is one of the reasons why Mrs Thatcher made it clear to Gorbachev during her Moscow visit that she was not in favour of reducing Europe of all its nuclear weapons. It's not just deterrence at stake, it's plain economics.

Undoubtedly with the way arms-control negotiations are going between the Soviet Union and the United States, the British and French independent deterrents will take on an increasingly high profile. For this is one area where European countries as opposed to the superpowers hold the trump cards. Neither Mrs Thatcher nor President Mitterrand has any intention of handing them over to join the nuclear free-for-all.

The British obsession

Why should we forever be victims of calendar-induced frenzy when holidays come round? John Grigg suggests ways to ease the crush



The British way: a mid-Victorian day out

bowls as the Armada approached. All the same, the judgement that the change of mood during the war would not effect the cult of holidays was certainly accurate.

It is not the number of our holidays, but rather their concentrated character, that makes them a menace. Though in many ways individualistic, we are capable of behaving like lemmings in our quest for recreation. And in this respect things have been getting worse in recent years.

The Christmas/New Year holiday season has now assumed almost the proportions of a general strike extending over 10 days. The combination of two holidays and two weekends is quite devastating. With Easter late this year, the spring holiday season will be rather similar, since the relatively new May bank holiday weekend will be following Easter with only one weekend in between.

It is tempting to suggest that fixed bank holidays should be abolished, and an equivalent number of days off be allowed each year to everyone instead, the actual days to be negotiated with

employers. But this would be too drastic a solution. Many traditional activities, in towns and perhaps still more in the country, are associated with bank holidays.

A possibly acceptable compromise might be a more or less even distribution of bank holidays through the year. The "Easter" bank holiday might be established as the first Monday in April, regardless of the ecclesiastical date of Easter. Since what used to be the Whit bank holiday has been separated from the church festival of Whitsun, the precedent for such a change exists.

A decent interval would then always elapse between the Easter and May Day holidays, and between the latter and the spring (formerly Whit) holiday. There might, however, be a case for giving people the option of a holiday at, say, the end of June. If they chose this, they would treat the spring bank holiday as an ordinary working day.

A similar choice is desirable for the summer bank holiday. Limiting it to a single date in August produces one of the most grie-

some of our national secular rites, in which millions suffer the maximum discomfort and misery. A choice between at least two dates, in July and August, would surely spread the load and so make each day, weather permitting, a pleasure rather than a penance.

The most difficult and controversial task would be breaking the solid mass of holiday at the turn of the year. But it is essential that this should be done. It seems to me that either Christmas or New Year should be treated as a full-blown holiday, but not both.

Again there could be a choice, and for either there would be a bank holiday to follow this festival day. (An extra day could be added for New Year, to balance Boxing Day.) But people would have to opt for one or the other. To compensate for the net loss of one public holiday — since there are now three over Christmas and New Year — a new one could be created in the autumn, to coincide with the school half-term.

Much of the traditional bank holiday pattern would thus be preserved, but with far greater flexibility.

There is scope, too, for purging the British weekend of its more objectionable features. One of these is the non-collection of letters on Sundays. Most other public services work adequately at the weekends, but the Post Office collects no letters between the middle of Saturday and Monday morning. Sunday collection ended while the postal service was merged with telecommunications in a single corporation, and ending it may then have served to promote the (anti-social) use of the telephone at the expense of letter-writing. Now that the Post Office is its own, it should have the incentive to compete with British Telecom, instead of leaving one whole day of the week to be monopolized by, as it were, the rival channel.

Mention of channels brings us to the worst scandal of the British weekend, the treatment of news by the television networks. They, indeed, seem to work on the principle that news ceases to occur at weekends. TV news bulletins on Saturdays and Sundays are half as long as on weekdays, and even more inferior in quality.

There is no justification for this. Sunday newspapers are not thinner, but on the whole fatter, than dailies, and the serious ones devote themselves as much to political and social news as to sport and miscellaneous entertainment. Why, then, should the ITN and BBC news be reduced to providing such insubstantial fare?

The advent of a holiday season compounds the triviality with which the programme-planners oppress us. Despite the growing excitement of politics, Sir Robin Day had to say that his excellent *Question Time* would be off the air for several weeks "because of the BBC's holiday arrangements".

Too bad if somebody invades Albania.

Ronald Butt

Bishops, 1216 and all that

Righteous anger again stirs in the hearts of some Anglican clergymen. They resent the fact that of the two names submitted to the Prime Minister by the Crown Appointments Commission for the appointment of the new Bishop of Birmingham, she did not choose the first. They assume that the second name that is submitted to the Prime Minister for the exercise of the royal prerogative is there for purely fictional purposes and should automatically be disregarded.

At the root of their resentment is another complaint: the suspicion that the Prime Minister turned down the Bishop of Stepney as too left-wing. However, we are assured that we need not worry too much since the Bishop of Kensington, who has been given the appointment, is no less left-wing. We can, it seems, be confident that the church would never be so forgetful of its proper position in the spectrum of political morality as to submit (even in the purely formal second place) the name of anyone who could be considered right-wing, whatever that means.

Indeed, Bishop Colin Buchanan of Aston, who is the new diocesan bishop's suffragan, revealed that on reading the allegations he promptly telephoned the chosen Bishop Santer of Kensington to advise him "that he would be very wise to make it clear that he is not a right-winger, as he certainly is not". Bishop Santer duly obliged, declaring that he was an active member of CND, and was every bit as radical as the Bishop of Stepney who, therefore, could not have been passed over because of his views. I take it that if the bishop chosen was known to believe in the immorality of inflation, the market economy, less public borrowing, the benefits of recent trade-union reform, privatization and multilateralism instead of unilateral nuclear disarmament, his suffragan today would be a worried man.

As it was, in response to the view of a Birmingham Tory MP that the city did not want another tub-thumping bishop, the suffragan could confidently say that in his opinion the new bishop was certainly "prepared to thump the tub", presumably in aid of what one might call not-right-wing opinions. Even so, despite the fact that no person of improper political inclination was on the list submitted to Mrs Thatcher, both Bishop Santer and Bishop Buchanan want the system changed to eliminate the royal prerogative altogether from the bishop-choosing process. In Bishop Santer's quoted words: "The church should appoint its own bishops, and that is what Magna Carta said in 1216."

That is not quite correct. King John's original charter of 1215 confirmed that "the English church shall be free [quod Anglicana ecclesia libera sit] and shall have its rights entire and its liberties inviolate". It went on to record that the king had already

confirmed "the liberty of election that is considered of prime importance and necessity for the English church". But when the charter was reissued in 1216, and subsequently, this second commitment on election was omitted and only the more generalized statement retained.

I make this point not out of pedantry but because it illustrates the way in which tension existed and bargains were struck throughout the Middle Ages between the church and crown. The church tried to enforce a right to appoint foreigners to English benefices and to impose taxes against the resistance of kings and commoners. The crown tried to influence and very often succeeded in influencing church appointments. There were too distinct authorities, each demanding allegiance, and the church was an independent power transcending kingdoms and centred in Rome.

Of course, there was much overlapping. English kings repeatedly employed clerics as their ministers, and sometimes regretted it, as when Edward III, after a furious political quarrel with his minister, Archbishop Stratford, swore that he would never again appoint clergy (who were protected by their cloth) to office but only such as could, if convicted of treason, "be drawn, hanged and beheaded". He and his successors did employ clerics again out of convenience. But in those times, when they were in politics it was as politicians rather than prelates. They did not stand on the sidelines and use their spiritual authority to make oppositionist attacks on the economic or defence policy of the time, though of course they might preach in general terms against abuses.

Today we have a very different situation. For what is the authority of the Church of England since Henry VIII drove out the pope and Elizabeth confirmed it? Its founding authority was the crown in parliament, which first established and authorized its liturgy. The crown remains the legal basis of its existence, and parliament is still the ultimate guardian of the Book of Common Prayer. Without the crown, the church is nothing but a congeries of different beliefs, practices and congregations with no cement of authority comparable to that in the name of which Magna Carta asserted the church's liberty.

The vestiges of the royal prerogative enable appointments to be made with some regard to broader reactions than are likely to come from the bureaucracy of the church in its present frame of mind. If these vestiges go, that is virtual disestablishment, under which the church will be revealed in its full lack of authority and left to the rivalry of minorities, striking bargains to be ratified by an unrepresentative general synod. The royal prerogative makes possible a response to wider sensitivities, and it may even have been exercised to that end in the matter of Birmingham.

Richard Heller

Vote for the giant teddy

Soon it will be the season for political walkabouts. In market squares and shopping precincts up and down the country peaceable citizens will have their lives blighted by grinning politicians who will seize and press stray parts of their flesh, propel them in front of lights and cameras and force them to play the part of straight man in a third-string variety act. All this will be accompanied by gibberish amplified through defective megaphones, and by a litter of stridently banal leaflets.

Heaven knows why political parties regard such campaigning as a vote-winner. They should at least do it with some minimal competence. As a veteran of over a thousand such walkabouts on both sides of the Atlantic, I offer the following suggestions.

You cannot have too much preparation. Somebody local — not a committee — must walk or drive the route, note the time taken, multiply by four, then add 15 minutes for emergencies (celebrity loses mackintosh or voice, forgets name of town, forgets party policy, on animal rights). The organizer must talk to the police and the media, especially about good and bad places to stop. Examples of Good Places to Stop: shop or stall run by colourful party supporter; shop or stall selling things from which party has promised to remove VAT; toyshop (celebrity should pick up grotesque cuddly toy and point out resemblance to opposing party leader); fortune-teller (bribe for favourable prediction).

Places to Stop: beside football supporters (noisy, and a vote-loser when shown to opposing supporters); beside anybody dirty or mad; beside unrehearsed old-age pensioners, beside pub (will lose media goodwill).

A walkabout should not be seen as a political meeting but as a media event. A good event is one that secures a short burst of cheerful coverage. Coverage will be quadrupled if Something Goes Wrong. The organizer should prepare emergency drills. For example, if a walkabout runs into an obstreperous heckler, the organizer should have a little girl ready with a giant teddy bear to shake hands with the celebrity. No

heckler can compete with Shirley Temple wielding a giant teddy.

It is useful for the celebrity to be recognized: many a political message has been drowned by murmurs of "Who the hell is that?" Acceptable celebrities: politician featured by Mike Yarwood or on *Spitting Image*; actor from respected series; sportsperson/popstar who has had stand-up row with *The Sun*. If an actor joining a walkabout is known principally for one role, he must appear in that role. If he is known as Argon the Space Monster, he must put on the green suit and the metal mask. Otherwise the walkabout will lose any support from children.

The celebrity must avoid handshakes, which can leave him/her sore, crushed or trapped by botes. The technique is to take a firm grip with either the Politician's Grip (affable clench of upper arm) or the Playful Punch. The celebrity should accept and may return a kiss, but never offer one. The celebrity should accept anything offered to eat (much scope here for sabotaging rival party campaigns). It is customary for a celebrity to address an old-age pensioner as "young man" or "my lovely".

Candidates should stick by the side of the celebrity to ensure inclusion in any photos or TV clips. Neither celebrity nor candidate should carry anything except a pen. Their hands should be free to press flesh, sign autographs, accept gifts or pick up babies (up to age two) or pets (up to spaniel).

Doubtful voters rarely reach the centre of a walkabout. People who meet the celebrity or candidate are nearly always committed, most of them to the party. The doubtfuls are on the edge. Plainclothes members of the party should mingle with them and gauge their reactions. They should not argue against hostile comments, but may murmur support for the celebrity or candidate.

Attention to the above points should ensure a higher standard of walkabout. However, I remain convinced that the most effective use of such events was made by the end of a rival party's walkabout and handed out leaflets reading: "None of that rubbish or disturbance came from my party."

Tangled tale of the great Thyssen offer

The activities of Baron Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, "Heine" to his friends, are nothing if not spectacular. Next Monday he will celebrate the opening of an exhibition of the Forbes collection of Fabergé at his lakeside villa in Lugano with the ascent of a hot air balloon (made in Britain) in the form of a Fabergé Easter egg.

The baron is not only one of the richest men in the world but also a passionate art collector and his Old Masters collection, housed in a gallery adjoining his lakeside villa, is considered the finest in private hands with the possible exception of that of the Queen. It is now being suggested that the entire collection may be given to the Prado in Madrid, a gift that might be worth £1,000 million.

On past form, it is unlikely that the baron — an exceptionally astute businessman — would do this without an equally munificent quid pro quo. The Prado affair is, however, mysterious.

At the press view of the Fabergé exhibition on Monday, the baron parried questions about the Prado. He had received an offer that it

would house his collection but no decision had been taken, he said. The director of the Prado, Professor Alfonso Sanchez, told *The Times* yesterday: "At this moment the Prado has absolutely nothing to do with this offer." The initiative came from the ministry of culture.

Thereby hangs a tale. The baron and Sanchez have been feuding for several years. To enhance the attraction of his own collection at the Villa Favarita in Lugano, which is open to the public through the summer, the baron mounts spectacular loan exhibitions. It all started in 1983, when he gave Impressionist paintings from Russia to his first showing in the West.

That gave the baron the idea of showing treasures from other great collections in Lugano and an approach was made to the Prado. Sanchez raised every kind of objection (the baron's favourite was that the Villa Favarita was dirty and had no light) but negotiations continued because of the strong support from the ministry of culture. When they failed,

the ministry suggested an alternative, an exhibition of the paintings by Goya in Spanish private collections.

This stunning exhibition was mounted in 1986, in spite of a rear-guard action by Sanchez, who allegedly wrote to each of the owners urging them not to let their paintings leave the country.

The baron has not yet let the press into his confidence as to the background of the present offer from Madrid. But it should be helpful to him in his current negotiations with the canton administration in Switzerland over the cost of a new gallery, designed by the British architect James Stirling, he intends to build next to the present one. At the moment only the Old Masters, mainly collected by his father, are regularly on view while his other collections, notably his modern pictures, are sent on touring exhibitions round the world.

The cost of the new gallery is estimated at £12 million. The villa is tucked into a steep hillside so that the construction materials would have to be taken in by lake.

The government of the Ticino region has agreed to shoulder some of the cost but tough negotiations are in progress over the precise proportion.

The baron has said that he will announce his decision about the new gallery in June. The offer from Spain, which would remove the great collection from Lugano, is no doubt a good negotiating card to have up his sleeve.

There is little doubt that the baron will get what he wants. He is a past master at it. That is how he rebuilt the family's ruined German businesses after the war into one of the world's largest industrial empires. With homes in Switzerland, Spain, America and Britain, he collects wives — he is now on his fifth — as well as art.

The British government should take note of the Prado affair and the current negotiations in the Ticino. A significant part of the Thyssen collection is housed at Daylesford House in Gloucestershire. It can hardly be termed the "national heritage", but it would be nice to keep it around.

Geraldine Norman

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I that



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EUROPEANS BEWARE

When the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, briefs Nato representatives in Brussels today on his talks in Moscow, he will appear to be bringing with him much of what they had requested in advance. Not only will he tell them that the superpowers are closer to agreement on reducing intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) in Europe. He will also present an assurance from Moscow that it is prepared to sacrifice its considerable superiority in shorter-range nuclear weapons by the simple, if radical, proposal that all such weapons should be scrapped within the year.

On the face of it, this proposal should assuage much of Western Europe's concern about the so-called "zero option" for INF. Coming within days of the Soviet leader's offer to discuss cuts in shorter-range missiles before any INF agreement is finalized, it suggests that Moscow recognizes the difficulties inherent in such an agreement and has gone more than halfway to effect a compromise.

It is important to recognize, however, that the proposals Mr Shultz has brought back from Moscow also correspond very much to what the Soviet Union wants from arms control: progress towards an INF agreement and the eventual removal of all nuclear weapons from Europe. The implications for Western Europe and for the Nato alliance as a whole, therefore, need to be examined very closely.

Over the past six weeks Soviet proposals for restricting nuclear weapons in Europe have followed each other with almost unseemly haste. Such haste has various possible explanations: Mr Gorbachev may need some form of arms

control agreement urgently for domestic political reasons: he may feel President Reagan needs an agreement and could be ready to compromise. He may sense that the relative benevolence towards the Soviet leadership in Western capitals has to be exploited before it evaporates. Whatever the reason, however, arms control agreements need careful preparation. They cannot be negotiated overnight.

Soviet haste alone should put the West on its guard. So too should the absolute nature of the Soviet proposals. Thus far nothing has been said about reductions. Moscow appears to be interested in elimination of nuclear weapons — whether intermediate-range or short-range — or nothing. Now the Soviet side may simply have made an opening bid, with a view to negotiating lower numbers of warheads on either side. But this question requires clarification.

Assuming that Moscow is seriously interested in negotiating lower ceilings of nuclear missiles in Europe, there is a basis for serious talking; more serious perhaps than at any time since the SALT-2 talks began to run into difficulty more than five years ago. In this event, the two superpowers could discuss significant reductions in both medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe. Soviet willingness to reduce its own shorter-range missiles to zero could then give Nato an opportunity to obtain parity at a lower level.

There is, however, another scenario, according to which the Soviet Union is angling, if not for a nuclear-free Europe (though this might be the

ultimate aim), then for a return to a situation similar to the one which existed before 1981, when those difficulties struck the Geneva talks. If current Soviet proposals were accepted in their entirety, the effect would be almost tantamount to setting back the arms control clock 10 years.

Western Europe would still have some nuclear capability, including tactical battlefield weapons and the British and French independent deterrents. It would also enjoy the protection of the strategic missiles held by the United States. At the same time, however, it would be vulnerable to Soviet superiority in both strategic nuclear weapons and, more especially, in conventional weapons.

It is worth recalling that this is why in December 1979 Nato decided on its twin-track policy — negotiation coupled with the threat of INF deployment — in the first place. The solution cannot lie in a return to the position of a decade ago.

For the West it is economic folly to start building up conventional weapons stocks which are so much more expensive in terms of money and the manpower to operate them.

Above all, however, it is highly doubtful whether the political will to provide the money (which would require unprecedented levels of allied cooperation) or the men (which would mean the British reintroduction of conscription) would be there. Any political leader who supports the zero option ought also to be prepared to argue for the cost of it. He or she will have to argue it to electorates which have been used to cheap defence for a very long time.

MR GANDHI FAILS THE TEST

The resignation from Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinet earlier this week of Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the former Indian Defence Minister, has deprived India of a rare politician. His personal incorruptibility made him stand out in a field crowded with racketeers. His steadfast commitment to reform differentiated him from the lacklustre hangers-on of the Congress Party whose only goal is to flatter the Party leader. In short, he was the sort of politician Mr Gandhi needs but does not have enough of.

More crippling to the Indian government than the actual loss of Mr Singh, however, are the circumstances of his resignation. As finance minister — the portfolio he held since January and later as defence minister — he instituted inquiries into the illegal foreign accounts held by many Indians and into the scandalous "kick-back" payments that have accompanied India's defence deals.

In each case it was thought that Mr Singh's efforts risked unearthing thinly concealed "business activities" of friends and associates of Mr Gandhi himself. Although the manner in which the inquiries had been instituted may have been less than tactful, they soon came to represent the first real

test of Mr Gandhi's much-trumpeted commitment to clean up public life.

This test Mr Gandhi has failed. Rather than allow such people to be brought to book, he chose to force his minister from office. He has thus given out the clear impression that he and his friends have something to hide.

But Mr Singh's resignation also focuses attention on the wider crisis in Indian politics. It is the culmination of a series of political failures which point to a growing credibility problem for Mr Gandhi. In the last three months the Indian Prime Minister has shown damaging signs of immaturity. In January the foreign secretary was abruptly and arrogantly dismissed at a press conference. Shortly afterwards, Mr Gandhi allowed himself to become locked into a constitutional dispute about whether he had met his constitutional obligation to keep the President informed. The actual details of the dispute are secondary to the suspicion that Mr Gandhi may, in the course of it, have lied to parliament. There is also the growing evidence that the Speaker and Congress MPs are now obstructing all debate on the issue.

These two episodes appear to cast doubt on Mr Gandhi's

competence to govern. The confusion surrounding his government's policies midway through its term of office only underlines the problem.

Rajiv Gandhi set out to reform the economy, bring peace to the Punjab and democratize the Congress Party. On each front, he has appeared to backslide as soon as his attempted reforms encountered the inevitable backlash.

As a result, plans to liberalize the economy further have been jettisoned, terrorism is once again a threat to the Punjab and Congress remains unreformed. Because Mr Gandhi set so much store by these policies when he assumed power and gained considerable credit from them, however, they constituted much of his mandate, and he has not lived up to it.

So long as Mr Singh (and others like him) served in Mr Gandhi's government, hope that the spread of the rot could be halted was kept alive. Mr Singh, after all, was responsible for the government's only real success — its first reforming budget. Now, Mr Gandhi has not only lost a capable and reliable colleague but, far worse, he has further eroded the residue of popular belief in his ability to change India.

POVERTY OF EVIDENCE

Nearly nine million adult workers in Britain are so low paid that they live in poverty; that is, 43 per cent of the workforce. These are the latest findings of the Low Pay Research Unit. That body, like so many which have unexceptionable, scholarly-sounding titles, is a pressure group. Its conclusions are not unconvincing simply because of that. But when its alarming "analyses" make their periodic appearances, it is worth remembering that this is simply a unit skirmishing in the war of ideologies just like any other.

Its own ideology is that of traditional egalitarianism. It shares principles, methods, and sometimes buildings, with the Child Poverty Action Group, Youth Aid, and the Unemployment Unit — bodies which likewise see the solution to privation as coming from such means as government spending and trade union action.

In order to reach the spectacular figure of 43 per cent of the British work force living on poverty wages, a very generous definition of poverty is needed. Such a definition, in the modern world, is likely to include the lack of things which until recently were considered luxuries.

The Low Pay Unit — if it is ever going to convince the country that 43 per cent of its work force is poverty-stricken — must rely overwhelmingly on the worryingly imprecise notion of "relative deprivation". That notion is not as new as both the unit, and many of its opponents, might assume. A more elegantly-phrased version of it is to be found in Adam Smith, a figure whom the unit would probably associate with the Thatcherite enemy, if only because of the Institute which bears his name.

"By necessities," writes Smith, in *The Wealth of Nations*, "I understand, not only the commodities which are indispensably necessary for the support of life, but whatever the custom of the country renders it indecent for creditable people even of the lowest order to be without." Smith also thought that "every man is rich or poor according to the degree in which he can afford to enjoy the necessities, conveniences, and amusements of human life."

Are 43 per cent of British workers without whatever the custom of the country renders it indecent to be without? The evidence provided by video rental shops, traffic jams, the figures for holidays in Spain,

and other customs of the country, suggests not.

Even if 43 per cent are without the necessities, conveniences and amusements enjoyed by the other 57 per cent, perhaps the time has come for that no longer to be considered indecent. A family which could not afford a television would rightly, according to the custom of the country, justify the description of being poor, if only because of the feeling of inferiority felt by the children when they hear other children talking about television.

But suppose the family is only too poor to afford a colour television? If such a family is classified as poor, definitions of the poor would have lost all meaning to the rest of the country.

Probably the Low Pay Unit's single biggest difficulty in convincing the country that more money is required to help the poor is that hardly anyone will believe that the poor amount to 43 per cent. And that leaves aside the equally large question of whether the remedies the unit would propose — greatly increased welfare benefits and union-enforced minimum wages — would help the poor. Experience suggests otherwise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Missing links at Zeebrugge

From Councillor Mark Goyder

Sir, I was moved by Sandra Lawrence's account of her "needless agony" (Spectrum, April 8). Like her, I was involved in a bereaved family's search for information, and while I would defend the Kent police, who had an impossible job but did it bravely, I would support her on the lessons to be learnt and on the suggestion of a permanent relative liaison agency. I would add:

1. While we need a centralised relative liaison unit, we need dispersal of the emergency numbers. When people first ring in, they do not expect immediate answers. So why not provide every police station with standard missing-persons forms which people can complete and make contingency arrangements at major police stations for transmitting the relevant information on to a central computer? That would save all concerned a whole night of fruitless attempts to call one overloaded exchange.

2. Where were the British Embassy in all this? My contact went to Zeebrugge early on the Saturday morning. He went from hospital to hospital in search of his granddaughter. In an attempt to find out a list of hospitals, he rang the British Embassy. No reply. On the Sunday he was given the emergency number. The answering voice said "Don't you realise it's a Sunday?"

Yours sincerely,
MARK GOYDER,
Kent County Council,
Members' Suite, County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent,
April 12.

From Dr R. S. Hogarth-Scott
Sir, What a sad tale of woe Sandra Lawrence describes regarding ineptness in the handling of information about relatives "missing" as a result of the Herald of Free Enterprise incident. Much can be learnt from a disaster organisation set up in Australia and initiated by Dame Phyllis Frost some 15 years ago.

This national organisation takes overriding control in such situations once the problem has been officially declared to be serious. It has the full support of the Government, the police, local authorities, the Red Cross and many other

bodies and it is further underpinned by a staff training college.

Accountability, centralisation of information, and commonsense ability to deal with the individual characteristics of each disaster are vested in a small, highly trained group that is mobile and sympathetic and efficient. It is an effective model well worth examination and translation to the United Kingdom.

Yours etc,
R. S. HOGARTH-SCOTT,
Forbury Priory,
Nr Bristol, Avon.

From the Director of the British Maritime League

Sir, Major-General Mans (March 25) and Dr Hobbs (April 4) seem to be unaware of what is already in place in this country to deal promptly and effectively with disasters and emergencies, the responsibility of the civil power.

At local level we have the police, fire and ambulance services, the local authorities of all kinds and numerous voluntary bodies.

Coastal and marine accidents to ships, craft and aircraft are the immediate responsibility of HM Coastguard: it has extensive communications links with the RNLI, police, civil and military rescue services, naval and air headquarters, every relevant government department and specialist service, as well as local authorities, harbourmasters, radio stations, airports, and many more.

For major incidents and disasters the Cabinet Office coordinates Government policy and action, but instant reaction must rely on rapid local initiatives at any time of week, day or night, that were so well demonstrated by the Zeebrugge authorities a month ago.

Your correspondents should not suppose that the Armed Forces are not always ready for rapid, often immediate and very effective assistance, but it is important that that highly developed capability is seen to be in answer to a call from the civil power, which has access to the far wider resources of the whole community.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RANKEN, Director,
The British Maritime League,
25-27 Theobalds Road, WC1,
April 6.

School fees ruling

From Mr Barnaby Scott

Sir, Lord Brandon has attempted to correct "a strange form of fiscal discrimination" (Law Report, April 9) by allowing tax relief for school fees to a divorced father whose children live with him. However, discrimination still exists; no child living with their married parents receives this benefit.

No such tax relief should be allowed to anyone, so that it cannot become tax-efficient to divorce. While the judgement may benefit the family in question, so would divorce that the father need pay no tax at all. The welfare of a particular person should not be more important than justice for the country as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
BARNABY SCOTT,
Corey's Mount,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

From Mr M. C. Wheat
Sir, Taxpayers should not have to subsidise the private education of children from broken marriages, whenever looked after them. To do this for someone with an income of £50,000 per year is absurd. To countenance the contrivance of a court order gives the green light to tax avoidance of a most contorted kind.

Even if generous tax reliefs are necessary for poor people, could this one, and others like it, be phased out quickly with increasing income, as is already done with age relief?

Yours faithfully,
M. C. WHEAT,
The Old Chapel, The Green,
Barnington, Cambridge,
April 9.

Turner bequest

From Sir Anthony Lousada

Sir, The critics of the Clore Gallery at the Tate have, by and large, devoted themselves to drawing attention to alleged defects (particularly the colour of the walls) and to departure from Turner's wishes. So negative have their views been that if one expresses admiration to persons who have not seen the gallery they appear surprised!

To have daylight galleries is wonderful. The pictures glow on the pale oatmeal walls. Normally artificial light will not be required for three quarters of opening hours. If the walls were darker and

Nursing shortage

From Dr G. C. Hanson and Dr H. E. R. Chew

Sir, We work in a busy district general hospital and are heavily involved in the care of the critically ill, running the intensive therapy unit which serves the district. The shortage of trained nurses in our hospital has become critical; seriously ill patients are being denied treatment on the intensive therapy unit because of beds available. Patients are not receiving the standards of care they need.

Many nurses have left the National Health Service because pay and working conditions are poor compared with those obtaining in the private sector, in Australia or in America. Many fully trained nurses have left to pursue other occupations. Trained nurses hold very responsible positions, are essential for patient care and work long, hard hours.

We have nothing but admiration for the hard work and long hours that these dedicated nurses still working in the National Health Service are doing. They deserve a better salary, improved living conditions and more flexible working hours without these the exodus will continue.

It is essential that something is done quickly before morale is completely lost and the health service collapses.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN C. HANSON,
H. E. R. CHEW,
Whitpops Cross Hospital,
Whitpops Cross Road,
Leytonstone, E1,
April 10.

Dodging the column

From Mr and Mrs Richard Saunders

Sir, More through luck than judgement, in 1982, 83, 84 and 86 we have managed to be abroad on holiday at the right times to avoid the worst of, respectively, the World Cup, the general election, the Olympics, and the World Cup again.

Could anyone, ideally possessing a touch more prophetic skill than David Owen, please advise us what period we should book this year in order to avoid as much of the coming electoral eruptions as possible?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. SAUNDERS,
STELLA SAUNDERS,
6 Piping Road,
Colden Common,
Winchester, Hampshire,
April 8.

Silent but deadly

From Mr R. M. Maxtone Graham

Sir, The Minister of State for Defence Procurement's parliamentary reply (April 10) that longbows ceased to be standard forces equipment in the 16th century would, surely, have been more accurate had he mentioned two exceptions: the Royal Company of Archers (the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland) and the soldiers detailed to stay behind in the Kentish woodlands in 1940 under the command of Peter Fleming, to harry the invading Nazis.

He arranged for this force to be issued with bows and arrows, as well as noisier weapons.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MAXTONE GRAHAM,
6 Moat Sole,
Sandwich, Kent.

A crisis in new legal service?

From Mr Patrick McLoughlin and Mr David Twigg

Sir, In view of the response of the Director of Public Prosecutions (report, April 10) to the nationwide survey of lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service (report, April 8) it was perhaps not wholly surprising that the survey disclosed that only 32 lawyers (4 per cent) out of 739 lawyers expressed confidence in senior management of the CPS and that morale in the service appears to have collapsed in many areas. However, what is rather more stunning is the indifference of the director to the facts in attempting to bluster away an unanswerable case supported by evidence.

Before the survey started it was predictable, in the event of adverse results, there would be an attack upon the questionnaire. In fact the questions asked in relation to prosecution standards, morale, future career intentions and confidence in senior management were meticulously drafted so as to be utterly neutral.

Nobody was asked "if they are underpaid or overworked", as the DPP suggests. It is a curiously gross insult to all CPS lawyers that the DPP should consider that the overwhelming majority of such lawyers are incapable of appraising the nature of a questionnaire submitted to them and answering those questions accurately and honestly and should regard their answers as " rubbish".

It is also difficult to understand how the DPP can support his other reported assertions. The proposed "lawyers' allowance" would be payable to barely 20 per cent of CPS lawyers; it does nothing to answer the recruitment and retention problems relating to the lack of career prospects even of those whom it benefits, and it further alienates the remaining 80 per cent of CPS lawyers.

The suggestion that imminent managerial restructuring will increase local involvement in CPS management is insupportable; the effect of creation of the (London-based) regional posts is to reduce in status (and in some cases in "grade") the local chief crown prosecutors and to interpose a layer of management which will insulate central management from direct contact with local chief crown prosecutors.

Finally, it is curious to observe the DPP refer to the problem of Saturday working as "largely resolved" and to refer to "certain pay disparities" as if it were a peripheral issue when the director knows (or should know) that the fragile national agreement on Saturday working is under imminent threat as a result of management action and legal moves by CPS lawyers.

Yours truly,
PATRICK MCLOUGHLIN
(Chairman, CPS Section),
DAVID TWIGG (Secretary),
Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Caxton Street, SW1,
April 13.

A woman's work

From Mr Rajnikant J. Mehta

Sir, How can anyone ever put a monetary value on the great love and care which millions of mothers and wives shower on their families day in and day out all over the world (Letters, April 2, 6, 7)?

And how many of us appreciate that it is this love which is transformed into all the labour that women put into their homes so that homes truly become places worth going back to after a hard day's work?

Yours etc,
RAJNIKANT J. MEHTA,
Director,
R. & R. Management Services Ltd,
127A Suite No.1,
Ealing Road,
Wembley, Middlesex,
April 7.

Grannies myth

From Mrs J. D. Meikle

Sir, Having celebrated my 61st birthday recently by completing a free-fall sky dive from 9,000 feet to raise funds for a new hospice for children, I was delighted to read a letter from Mrs M. A. Clayton in today's copy of *The Times* (March 30).

Mrs Clayton speaks for the majority, surely, when she calls for children's literature which portrays the modern granny. Writers are not the only people to discriminate in this way and my contemporaries are referred to constantly as "little old ladies". Nothing could be further from the truth.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN MEIKLE (grandmother of three),
9 Hovedene Drive, Howden,
Goole, North Humberside,
March 30.

Birthday honours

From Dr J. J. Misiewicz

Sir, It used to be fun to scan the "Birthdays today" slot to see how many famous birthday persons one knew about. Now that job descriptions are printed ("previously assistant Headmaster St Elsewhere's") this is no longer possible and all that is left is a sense of wonder at the extraordinary longevity of some and the feeling of unease if one has not heard of those so dazzlingly famous — that they still appear jobless — a higher class of birthday person?

Yours faithfully,
J. J. MISIEWICZ,
148 Harley Street, W1,
April 10.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 16 1876

Spelling bees were popular, especially during 1939-45, when entertainment was lacking. The Oxford English Dictionary shows the phrase originating in 1876

"A SPELLING BEE."

(From Our American Correspondent.)
PHILADELPHIA, April 1.

The Session of Congress being ended and business not yet having thoroughly revived, the American people have during the past few weeks been indulging in a new pastime, which is becoming as universal as it is popular. This is the "Spelling Bee", a New England invention which has made rapid strides over the country. "Spelling" for prizes is the prevailing infatuation, and every town and village is having its "bee", attended by crowds who cheer the successful and laugh at those who are afflicted with a "bad spell". . . . It is gratifying to know that the public taste, diverted into this channel, will enjoy a temporary relief from the almost perpetual political wrangling in which we indulge. "Spelling Bee" in this part of the country was held at the Academy of Music, in Philadelphia, on the evening of the 25th of March, at least 4,000 people crowding the auditorium. The novelty of the thing and the belief of many that they could beat the "champions" added to the attractions, and hundreds were left outside the building who could not possibly get in. There were 80 competitors for the six prizes offered — 40 ladies and 40 gentlemen — the majority of them being school teachers, and at 8 p.m. they marched in procession upon the stage.

The following were the rules:—"First. The class will be composed of an equal number of ladies and gentlemen, who will occupy opposite sides of the stage.

"Second. Webster's Unabridged Dictionary will be the standard.

"Third. The spelling will be oral.

"Fourth. Words spelled more than one way by Webster will be omitted.

"Fifth. No word will be used consecutively.

"Sixth. One word misspelled rules the misspeller out.

"Seventh. Any competitor misunderstanding a word may ask one repetition, if no attempt at spelling the word has been previously made."

A teacher of elocution gave out the words in a loud voice, the audience watching with close attention. "Difference," "dialogue," "corrigible," and "varioloid" were announced one after another and were all spelt correctly, a lady and gentleman being alternately selected. Then "mucksteer" fell to the lot of a young lady, who spelt it "mucksteer"; when a roar from the audience announced her failure, and she blushing stepped out of the class. A dozen more words were spelt correctly, when "excitation" brought down the first young man, who made a dash at it with "acci" and got no further as the shouts of the audience drowned his voice. "Gourmand" spoilt the fortune of another man. Then there was some correct spelling until "defilest" came along, and, of course, killed his man, who was uncertain about the "le," "benison" acquired a new meaning for a lady, "ebullition" quieted a youth, "marguerite" was what the next champion performed, and "tyranny" was too discordant for a lady's ear. . . . Then the class was reduced to the six to whom prizes were to be awarded — four ladies and two gentlemen, and the competition was continued to see which would live the longest. . . .

"Furview" took number six, a lady, "fastidious" number five, a gentleman who had made a great deal of amusement and whose downfall was most warmly received. Now were left three ladies and one gentleman, but they survived but a short time, "distension" being too much for the man, and "infinitesimal" and "hauser" for two women. A lady, as usual, had the last word, remaining alone on the stage, and to her (Miss Lizzie J. Book), amid loud applause, was awarded the first prize. . . . At a late hour the audience dispersed, there being much gratification expressed at the amusement offered and much criticism at the way the affair was managed. The "Spelling Bee," however, brought in a large sum, and was a success in this, if not as a "spell."

Somali expedition

From Mr J. W. Howard

Sir, The interesting "On This Day" piece (April 1), about the Somali Expedition in February, 1901, carried a preface implying that the events narrated took place in or near British Somaliland and were part of the campaign against the Mad Mullah.

In fact, the places mentioned — Afmado, Yonte and Kismayu, all in Jubaland — are in the southernmost corner of what is now Somalia and are about 800 miles away from what was then British Somaliland. The expedition was not part of the military operations against the Mad Mullah; these started in May, 1901, in southern British Somaliland.

It appears that the main cause of the trouble in Jubaland at that time was the attempted settlement by the British Administration of claims for blood money against the Sultan of Zanzibar who owned the coastal strip. According to Colonel Moysse-Barillet, in his book *The King's African Rifles*, "this was a false move, for intertribal claims and counter-claims made the division of this money very complicated and led at once to dissatisfaction and unrest". I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
JOHN HOWARD,
Appletree Cottage,
Staplecross,
Rotherbridge, Sussex,
April 5.

THE ARTS

Amiable cosiness

The John Snow pub in Soho is named not after the English fast bowler but the Victorian physician who spotted the link between a local outbreak of cholera and foul water drawn from the pump in the street outside.

The first part of *Victorian Values* (Granada) retained social-history information of this order at the expense of the polemic its title might suggest: Bamber Gascoigne sitting at the bar instead of standing in the pulpit. Since it was not quite clear what he thinks of his material, the programme resembled an Open University

TELEVISION

transmission fronted by the Cheshire Cat. Perched dapperly on the parapet of the Embankment or plunging madly through Bazalgette's brick-laid sewers, the personally smiling Mr Gascoigne gave a textbook run-through of the 19th century's pioneering improvements to public sanitation. It was all quite amiable — pretty bridging music and popular songs; a potted dramatization of worthy mutton-chops — but the prime Victorian virtue that went begging was enthusiasm.

Who's the Greatest? (Thames) really should be filmed in a pub, with the contenders becoming progressively glozier and unbuttoned in their vociferation as the lager wears on. Sport has long since replaced politics and religion as the major excuse for steamy bloody-mindedness: television should take the opportunity to pillory it. In the event, the series has opted for a cosy trial format, with Brian Moore presiding over two champions who call expert witnesses to support their claims for comparable sportsmen, and 12 "independent-minded sports fans" who vote at the close. Last night, in case anyone cares, Muhammad Ali (sponsor: Dennis Waterman) thrashed Rocky Marciano (Eamonn Andrews) 9-3.

Tabloid ambition wedded to anemic, half-joke presentation: no, this does not sound like a very good idea for a television series; in fact (as Julian Barnes has remarked in another context), it does not even sound like a very good idea for an idea. Wading through *TV Times* in search of enlightenment, one finds the perhaps significant revelation that Mr Moore has not touched red meat these four years.

Martin Cropper

Dark comedy of lives in confusion

CINEMA

Crimes of the Heart
(15)
Odeon Haymarket

My Life as a Dog
(PG)
Renoir

The Assault (PG)
Cannon Swiss Centre

Almost You (15)
Cannon Tottenham
Court Road; Metro



The sun-bleached sister from Los Angeles whose career has petered out: Jessica Lange in *Crimes of the Heart*

On the New York stage, Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart* — the darkly comic tale of three Southern sisters with mixed-up lives — was performed by experienced, but none too starry players; Bruce Beresford's film goes for glitter with Diane Keaton, Sissy Spacek and Jessica Lange. The casting is certainly astute.

The eerie, elfin Spacek is made to measure for Babe, the childlike sister under arrest for shooting her husband, a local senator who tumbled to her love-making with a teenage black handymen. Lange brings a valuable hard edge to Meg, the sun-bleached sister from Los Angeles whose singing career has petered out, and Keaton piles all her nervous mannerisms into the role of Lenny, the eldest girl facing spinsterhood with white ankle-

socks, long skirts and flailing arms. The three gather together to plan Babe's defence and unravel past memories — from old boyfriends to their mother's strange suicide in the cellar (she hung herself along with the cat).

Beth Henley's play is rich in the baroque comedy of lives running out of kilter, and the stars enjoy the opportunity to let their hair down with a Southern accent. On stage, everything happened in the kitchen; now we roam all over a sprawling house in North Carolina, transformed by the production designer Ken Adam into a weather-beaten palace of gables, towers, lattice-work, lampshades and a decade upon decade of furniture. Beresford takes care — too much care — to frame his actors with domestic clutter; when the characters are governed by wild impulses, a style so respectful, so academic, has the taming effect of a pail of cold water. But at times the

right note is struck — as when Spacek walks downstairs to a ringing phone, a rope and broken chandelier trailing behind after a failed attempt at hanging. As she observes later, "I'm having a bad day".

The last Lasse Hallström film to be distributed here was the 1977 *Abba — The Movie*. Luckily the Swedish director has put back work behind him: *My Life as a Dog*, made in 1983, bristles with character and charm. The story of a mischievous 12-year-old boy in the 1950s coming to terms with death and responsibility stems from a popular novel, though this still seems pre-eminently a director's film. You sense a guiding hand thrusting the narrative forward, establishing the mood of nostalgia through diffused lighting, and steering the players away from mawkish porridge or buffoonery.

Consider the material's pitfalls. Ingemar, a boy too lively for his ailing mother (who ultimately dies), is sent to live with relatives in the country. He sorely misses his dog, but is gradually sucked into the daily round — sparring with other children, reading lingerie adverts to the invalid Mr Arvidsson, acting as chaplain to a sculptor's nude model, and listening endlessly to his uncle's record of "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts".

The village has more than the national average of eccentrics, and a few toes might curl at the pastoral whimsy. Yet Hallström channels all human foibles through the questing mind of the young hero, tentatively exploring his developing sexuality and the dark feelings of guilt over his mother's death. At times Ingemar's thoughts fill the soundtrack to the visual accompaniment of the sky at night: "It's not so bad if you think about it", he muses,

recalling a canine space voyager who starved to death for the cause of progress, "it could have been worse".

Imagine this with a graduate from the Margaret O'Brien School of Acting: the film would collapse in a pool of tears. But Hallström conjures a miraculous performance from Anton Glanzelius: no jerks at the heart-strings, no precocious grasping at emotions out of reach — just the natural, quixotic moods of an impish, sensitive lad, suddenly forced to grow up, facing life with a brave, open heart.

Cumbersomely adapted from an obviously large novel, the virtue of Fons Rademakers' *The Assault* lies in its character psychology. Rademakers, a leading Dutch director now in his late sixties, paints a vivid portrait of a child who lost his family in the Nazi occupation, growing into manhood with hidden emotional scars. But the defects mount up so: the ponderous direction; the simplistic use of actuality footage to pinpoint the passing years; the severe face of the lead actor, Derek de Linde; the indifferent music smeared across scenes like jam. *The Assault* was this year's Oscar-winner for the Best Foreign Film.

Almost *You*, a bitter-sweet comedy from 1984, deserves exhumation, though it cannot be counted a great success: its young director, Adam Brooks, lets time hang heavy over scenes that should fly with the wind. Yet at least he never stifles his attractive cast — including Griffin Dunne as the harassed New Yorker trying to break free from marriage, and Brooke Adams as the brittle wife with a dislocated hip but a very mobile tongue.

Geoff Brown

OPERA

Otello
Covent Garden

Russian tenor Vladimir Atlantov, in the title-role. He has a natural Otello voice, probably the most natural around at the moment, and irresistibly recalls Mario del Monaco in the part: a hunky lion of a man with the brazen tones to extol victory — the opening "Eulatte" was thrilling — and to curse loss in an equally impressive "Diol mi potevi".

What is missing is the readiness of a Domingo to probe into the core of a moderately complex man. Domingo presents a lived-in Otello, Atlantov one performed many times and well within his very considerable vocal resources. Sherrill Milnes's vocal resources too remain pretty

impressive after a long career. His Iago may take the Credo with caution nowadays, especially the close where younger baritones are ready to let rip, but there is always the clear impression of man ready, and excellently equipped, for a power-struggle. The Milnes Iago, as noted from Los Angeles last autumn when he appeared with Domingo, by his very stage presence — commanding height, leather jackboots — suggests that he should be the officer in charge of the Venetian forces. His interpretation reaches its peak in the Act III ensemble when Moshinsky quite correctly pushes Otello into the shadows.

The most subtle and tense performance comes from Rosalind Plowright as Desdemona, a rather different figure here from the one displayed at the Coliseum. It took Miss Plowright time to find her

form, which was established by a single, gorgeous floated high note at the start of Act III. Thereafter it was forward for most of the way: a Willow Song shaped in true Veridian style, a slightly breathy Ave Maria. It is a pity Miss Plowright's very human Desdemona is only on view for one more evening (next Monday) before she hands over the part to Julia Varady, hastening into London after her Salzburg duties.

There were telling contributions from Robin Leggate (Cassio) and Robert Lloyd (Lodovico). Edward Downes in the pit took the first act at a pace that suggested he was worried about his train home, but then settled down to more measured tempi. The interpretation lacks nothing in vigour, but it is short on tenderness and instrumental colouring.

John Higgins



Iago instils doubt: Sherrill Milnes (left), Vladimir Atlantov

CONCERT

ECO/Litton
Elizabeth Hall/
Radio 3

Redolent of park bandstands on Sunday afternoons it may be, but the overture to Hérold's *Zampa* is, in its way, a précis of certain early-Romantic musical tendencies. So it made an apposite opener to the second concert in the English Chamber Orchestra's stimulating "Dawn of Romanticism" series.

One can, for instance, hear a presage of *Carmen* in the swaggering, cymbal-led opening, or a touch of Berlioz about that crude but effective "wrong-note" trombone entry a few bars on. Later, the clarinet's chorale — a startlingly strait-laced passage to find in an overture about a master philanderer — hints at Brahms in his upright-citizen mood; but then the accelerating oom-pah coda points to Hérold's greatest contemporary in the opera comique field, Rossini.

The general tenor of this music, though, is brash and burly, and this seemed to suit the young American conductor Andrew Litton. One was less convinced when he approached Schumann's First Symphony similarly. If this gloriously idiosyncratic tumble of a piece is to be performed by a chamber orchestra it needs crisp and discriminating handling.

Litton's heavyweight approach was fine for stomping through the scherzo, and there was an impressive solidity about the first movement (apart from some erratic pick-ups). But the Larghetto, too stressfully phrased at first, became ludicrously unbalanced when the cellos took up the tune: four of them struggled to penetrate accompaniments of pudding-like density. On the other hand, there were magic moments: the trombones' entry at the Larghetto's close; a superbly cohesive flute/horn cadenza in the finale.

Earlier, Ann Murray had been in fine voice for three Schubert arias. She covered the metallic side of her timbre appropriately for the tender picture of life eternal painted in "So schlummert auf Rosen" from *Lazarus*, then opened out radiantly for two charming numbers from *Alfonso and Estrella*. The other soloist was the oboist Neil Black, who played Hummel's Introduction, Theme and Variations with characteristic wit and control. More "bandstand" music, perhaps, but irresistibly virtuosic.

Richard Morrison



Arduous no longer required to carry the weight of tragedy: Niamh Cusack and Sean Bean

All for love of money

THEATRE

Romeo and Juliet
Barbican

Most English classics are about money, but some disguise it better than others; and the central achievement of Michael Bogdanov's production — another exercise in tabloid Shakespeare alongside the Old Vic Henrys — is to show true love losing hands-down to the property instinct. Not one reference to cash escapes Bogdanov's attention. Benvolio's exit-line about dying in debt becomes a cue for settling a café bill. Folding money excites Dilys Laye's well-fed Nurse as well as the starving Apothecary.

Come the marvellously comic duel between Mercutio (Michael Kitchen) and Tybalt (Hugh Quarshie), and Tybalt breaks off the fight to inspect his gleaming new sports car for damage after his adversary

has taken a swipe at it. The Capulets, of course, are exposed as a pair of cold-hearted slaves of the ducat who regard their daughter as a walking investment. In the production's key line, the Friar rounds on them with the accusation "The most you sought was her promotion".

Finally, Bogdanov drives his argument home by cutting straight from Juliet's death speech to a posthumous Press conference with a mohair-suited Duke delivering the

prologue on the two households to an accompaniment of popping flash-bulbs; while the golden statues of the lovers reveal that their deaths have only stimulated their families into renewed competition.

With Bogdanov's work you have to accept a degree of overkill. In this case, it is not simply a modern-dress show but one packed with all the gleaming iconography of street warfare, and where closing couplets are apt to be drowned out by Benvolio's revving motorbike. Likewise, characterization leaves you in no doubt of where your sympathies are supposed to lie. It is coarse; but it works because it has been solidly thought out. Niamh Cusack and Sean Bean (much improved since last year's Stratford opening) are extremely affecting, partly because they give performances of incandescent ardour, but also because they are no longer required to carry the weight of tragedy. Their deaths are presented in their true colours as a ridiculous waste, with no effect on the world they leave behind. Tragedy is reserved for Robert Demeger's Friar, a middle-aged man trying to take sides with uncorrupted youth, but finally defeated and making an ignominiously terrified exit from the tomb.

Irving Wardle

ROCK

Michael McDonald
Hammersmith Odeon

Pleats of British singers, from Steve Winwood to Mick Hucknall, have done well in the genre known as "blue-eyed soul". However devoted he may be, though, no Brit can hope to be as convincing as someone who has grown up among the rhythms and cadences of soul music. That special quality — shared with the likes of Charlie Rich, the Young Rascals' Felix Cavaliere and whoever sang the lead on Flamingo's "Westbound No 9" — is what makes Michael McDonald so completely convincing.

The concerts on his first British tour have been a textbook demonstration of how to blend the full-frontal power of rock 'n' roll with the emotional depth of the best soul music — a fusion for which his career has provided the perfect training. After reviving the Doobie Brothers, an ailing boogie band, in the late Seventies, he came to prominence as an individual in his duets with James Ingram on "Ya Mo B There" and with Patti LaBelle on "On My Own", each providing an example of his acceptance among black artists.

Horse and urgent, always seeming to strain on the brink of the falsetto register, McDonald's voice is nevertheless intimate — not the plastic soft-porn that passes for intimacy among so many male soul singers of the 1980s, but the intimacy of introspection. Even when his band was rolling like a freight train through "Minute by Minute", "What Freedom" and "No Lookin' Back" on Tuesday night, McDonald retained a slight but discernible distance from the traditional posturing. In fact, he keeps his dignity.

At times deploying four sets of keyboards, his six musicians contributed fully to a carefully programmed show. David Pack's fluent guitar being the outstanding instrumental voice in a dense mix. Jaki Graham played Miss LaBelle's role with great panache, and in "I Keep Forgettin'" and "I Can Let Go Now" McDonald reminded us that no grown-up rock 'n' roller is writing more effective love songs.

Richard Williams

Can you write?

The second Mobil Playwriting Competition for the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester is now under way. It is open to anyone entering an original, full length play.

1st Prize	\$10,000
2nd Prize	\$5,000
3rd Prize	\$3,000
International Prize	\$3,000
The Michael Elliott Prize for the North West	\$3,000
Special Prize	\$1,000

There is also a Mobil Bursary to fund a writer-in-residence at the Royal Exchange, which brings the total prize money to \$33,000.

Plays will be judged by a distinguished panel, chaired by Ronald Harwood, including Michael Frayn, Joan Bakewell, Josephine Hart, Ian McDiarmid and James Maxwell.



Write for more details to:
The Mobil Playwriting Competition
The Royal Exchange Theatre Company
St Ann's Square
Manchester M2 7DH

"The Mobil Playwriting Competition is probably unique. It is not only discovering new writers of great diversity; it is getting their plays published and performed."

Michael Ratcliffe, Theatre Critic,
The Observer.

\$33,000 in prizes to be won
Closing date: 16 January 1988

VERDI'S TONIGHT at 7.30
SIMON BOCCANEGRA
"a major musical event"

Includes: Jonathan Summers, Janice Cairns, Gwyneth Howell, Arthur Davies, Alan Ople, Clive Bayley

Conductor Mark Elder
Producer David Alden Designer David Harding

"It's yet another hit for ENO"

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Credit Cards 01-240 5258

Research earnings 'rise to £198m'

The association is a research organization working mainly with the help of grants from the National Environment Research Council, to whom it is responsible. Projects being undertaken include the role of bacteria in the freshwater environment, and factors which determine the population of fish in inland lakes, streams and rivers.

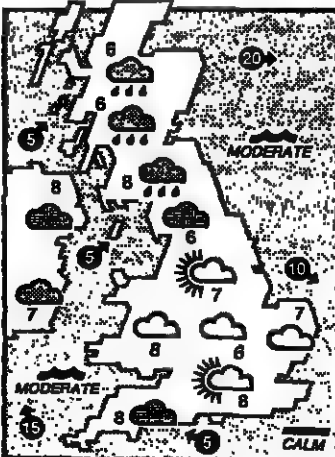
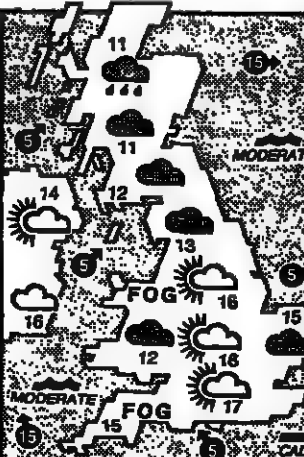
Judge Arthur D'Hoest, heading the Belgian inquiry, revealed that seven bodies now await formal identification in Bruges. "We all came here with sympathy to express our sentiments to the families. It was very emotional, very moving."



Nato welcomes arms offer

His offer on Tuesday to scrap all shorter-range missiles caused considerable confusion in Whitehall, where it was seen as partly contradicting what he had said in Prague. Then he appeared to want to keep such talks entirely separate from an agreement on INF weapons, a position he seemed to reverse when speaking to Mr Shultz.

AM
PM

LIGHTING-UP TIME
LONDON


London 8.28 pm to 5.32 am
 Bristol 8.38 pm to 5.42 am
 Edinburgh 8.50 pm to 5.36 am
 Manchester 8.41 pm to 5.39 am
 Penzance 8.47 pm to 5.56 am

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 17°C (63°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 7°C (45°F) Humidity: 50 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Surf: 24 hr to 6 pm, 6.8m. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1030.3 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.


YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Belfast c 12 54 Birmingham c 14 57 Blackpool c 10 50 Bristol c 14 57 Cardiff c 13 55 Edinburgh c 12 54 Glasgow c 11 52	Guernsey c 12 54 Inverness c 11 52 Jersey c 11 52 London c 15 61 Manchester c 13 55 Newcastle c 13 55 Plymouth c 13 55
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Sun rises: 6.04 am
 Moon sets: 6.42 am
 Last Quarter April 22

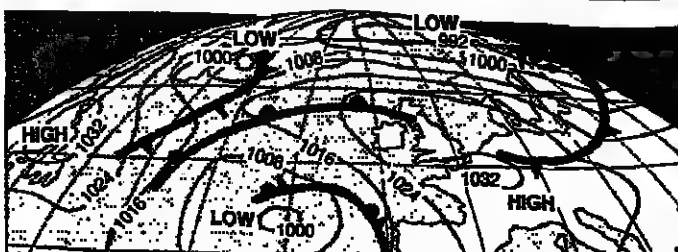


Sun sets: 7.58 pm
 Moon rises: 11.49 pm

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 6.5°C (43°F) Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Surf: 24 hr to 6 pm, 4.0m.

NOON TODAY



Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1515.1 (+8.4)
FT-SE 100
1922.2 (+13.3)Bargains
34700 (45627)USM (Datastream)
162.58 (+0.63)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6340 (+0.0035)W German mark
2.9510 (+0.0128)Trade-weighted
72.1 (+0.1)Laporte
ahead
by 15%

Profits growth at Laporte Industries, the chemicals group, picked up in the second half of the year after a sluggish start. Profits announced yesterday were £64.2 million, 15 per cent higher than in 1985. The dividend goes up to 6.45p from 5.05p.

There were increased contributions from almost all the Laporte operations. Profits from the Interox companies continued to improve with good performance from Brazil and Europe.

There was an extraordinary credit of £5.3 million relating to an insurance claim. Net cash including short-term bank guaranteed investments increased to £18.8 million. Capital expenditure totalled £22.5 million and acquisitions a further £7.6 million.

Pearl shines

Pearl Group is paying a final dividend of 7p, making 10.5p for 1986, after reporting pre-tax profit of £38.8 million, up from £28.5 million, and after-tax profit of £25.3 million, up from £16.8 million.

Boots buy

Boots, Britain's second biggest optical retailer, is buying the Curry & Paxton chain of 45 optical practices, bringing its total of optical outlets to 240.

Co-op plan

The Co-operative Bank is planning to expand its branch network, including banking facilities inside shops as well as high street branches, with further concentration on key business areas.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2257.24 (+4.28)
Dow Jones	2257.24 (+4.28)
Nikkei Dow	23510.89 (-13.39)
Hong Kong	2693.62 (+25.27)
Hang Seng	2693.62 (+25.27)
Amsterdam	251.8 (-1.8)
Sydney	1784.7 (-15.7)
Frankfurt	1808.9 (+38.8)
Commerzbank	1808.9 (+38.8)
Milseels	4806.41 (+45.44)
General	4806.41 (+45.44)
Paris CAC	4863.5 (+1.5)
Zurich SKA	581.1 (-3.0)
London	1922.2 (+13.3)
FT 30	1515.1 (+8.4)
FT 100	1922.2 (+13.3)

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Closing prices Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	9 1/8-9 3/4%
3-month eligible bills	9 1/8-9 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	7 1/2%
Federal Funds Rate	5 7/8-6 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bill	5 7/8-6 1/8%
30-year bonds	9 1/8-10 1/8%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.6335
£/DM	DM1.8080
£/Sfr	Sfr1.4880
£/FF	FF6.0055
£/Yen	Yen141.65
£/Index	Index100.7
ECU	ECU 70.74780
SDR	SDR 79.9553

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

NYSE	
Nat West Bank	588p (+28p)
BP	855p (+20p)
BP Ind	555p (+20p)
Bakwin	165p (+30p)
Taylor Woodrow	349p (+17p)
Smiths Ind	301p (+11p)
Vickers	485p (+20p)
Elect Machine	98p (+12p)
Vaux Group	574p (+14p)
Savoy Hotel 'A'	416p (+17p)
St Ives	625p (+28p)
Cocopus	730p (+32p)
Redleam	542p (+27p)
Wellcome	425p (+18p)
Avis Europe	293p (+16p)

FALLS

Royal Insurance	888p (-13p)
Crestain Group	520p (-11p)
Eucalyptus	1350p (-250p)
Wigfalis	153p (-20p)
Exel	449p (-14p)

Prices are as at 4pm

GOLD

London Fixing	
AM \$445.50 pm \$444.10	
close \$443.50-444.00	(£272.00-272.50)
New York	
Comex \$444.00-444.50	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm \$17.65 bbl (\$17.50)	
Danish latest trading price	

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Jobless heads
below 3mLatest figures add to
pressure for early poll

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The unemployment total fell last month, its eighth successive monthly decline. Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Employment, predicted that the jobless total would fall below three million over the next two months.

The sustained fall in unemployment and the prospect of an early fall below the symbolic three million level, will add to the pressure on the Prime Minister to call a June general election.

With the Government strongly ahead in the opinion polls and news on both unemployment and inflation set fair until the summer, the argument for an early poll has strengthened.

Mrs Thatcher will have both the April unemployment figures and the May 7 local election results at her disposal before she has to decide on a June election date.

A June 18 election would capture both the drop in unemployment below three million and an expected drop in the inflation rate below the 3.7 per cent recorded just before the June 1983 election.

The unemployment total dropped by 82,439 last month to 3,143,370, or 11.4 per cent of the working population. This was the biggest March fall since the current claimant count figures began in 1971.

The more representative adult total, seasonally adjusted, fell by 30,100 to 3,042,900 - 11 per cent of the working population. Over the past six months this total has shown an average monthly fall of 25,000.

"We have now seen a drop of 180,000 since last July to the lowest level for two-and-a-half years," Lord Young said. "I have no doubt this downward trend is set to continue."

He predicted the May unemployment figures, to be published on June 18, would show a fall below three million, as long as industrial action in benefit offices does not affect the figures.

The fall over the latest six months was the biggest since 1973 and was explained both by the "export-led boom," the expansion of the Government's special measures and by the Restart programme, Lord Young said.

"We're probably seeing as buoyant a time in manufacturing employment as we've had for a long time."

But he conceded that, with the effects of the Government's Restart programme on the unemployment figures impossible to assess, he was not able to say how much, if any, of the jobless fall was due to the stronger performance of the economy.

Mr John Prescott, Labour's employment spokesman, said the unemployment figures were "the Government's attempt to deceive both the unemployed and the electorate."

"The figures present a shamefully distorted picture. The reduction over the past seven months is due almost entirely to the increase in Government special employment measures."

Mr Prescott added that the true level of unemployment was more than five million, the view contrasting sharply with that of Lord Young who said the unemployment figures overstated real jobless numbers.

Measured across the whole economy, rather than just manufacturing, the unit labour costs' position was less satisfactory. In the fourth quarter of last year - the latest figures - growth in unit wage and salary costs accelerated to 5.2 per cent, from 4.3 per cent in the third quarter.

Average earnings in the 12 months to February were up by 7.4 per cent.

Labour costs slow down

By Our Economics Correspondent

The growth in industry's unit labour costs has slowed sharply this year, according to new figures published yesterday.

The Department of Employment announced that wages and salaries per unit of output in manufacturing in February were only 1 per cent up on a year earlier. The slowdown, from increases of more than 8 per cent a year at the beginning of 1986, was due to stronger output.

In the three months to February, unit wage costs in manufacturing were 1.8 per cent up on a year earlier, the smallest rise since June 1984.

Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday emphasized the importance of the slower growth in unit labour costs.

"I'm not concerned about wages, I'm concerned about unit wage costs," he said. "I want this to be a high wage society," not a low wage society.

Mr Giles Keating, economist at Credit Suisse First Boston, said the 1 per cent rise in unit wage costs to February was not an aberration and expected that annual rises of this magnitude would continue.

The improved picture for unit labour costs in manufacturing reflects the upward revision of output figures, announced on Tuesday. Recorded levels of manufacturing output between October and January were revised up by 1.5 per cent.

Mr John Banham, CBI director general, said there was real fear that any measures by the United States to try to force the Japanese into opening their home market further to imports would escalate tensions rapidly.

At the monthly meeting of the CBI council yesterday, senior industrialists expressed growing disquiet at the possibility of an all-out trade war and the adverse impact on Britain's exports of import restrictions by the US.

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CBI warning over
action on Japan

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday set its face firmly against the imposition of trade sanctions against the Japanese, with a warning that retaliation would lead to serious disruption of world trade.

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Ex-Guinness Mahon men to head £100m operation

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

British & Commonwealth Shipping, the investment holding company, yesterday announced its intention to set up a full-scale investment banking business backed by capital of £100 million. The new operation will be run by Mr Bruce Ussell, who abruptly resigned as managing director of Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank, and Mr Malcolm Wilde, the director of Guinness Mahon's banking division.

B&C, which has followed a rapid course of restructuring and expansion after the appointment last year of Mr John Gunn as chief executive, plans to build an investment bank specializing in capital markets. Mr Peter Goldie, a joint managing director, said the new bank would not be involved in securities or Big Bang related business.

The operation will be based on Cayzer Ltd, a small licensed deposit-taker already owned by B&C. It will become part of a separate division of the group which will also include stockbroking and insurance broking operations. It is already owned. The business will concentrate on syndicated lending to governments and large corporations as well as smaller companies and development opportunities. Corporate finance may be added at a later date, Mr Goldie said.

The £100 million capital injection, which will make the new operation larger than many existing merchant banks, will take place over several months or years. There will be an immediate injection of £20 to £25 million from B&C resources to add to Cayzer's existing capital of £13 million.

Mr Goldie added that B&C had decided against buying a merchant bank because of the huge amounts of goodwill involved in such purchases. It was not going into the securities business because that required huge amounts of capital which the group did not want to commit.

The resignations of Mr Ussell and Mr Wilde came as a surprise, said Mr John Selater, the chairman of Guinness Mahon. He added that he was not aware that personality clashes had contributed to their departure.

However, it is believed that Mr Ussell had found it increasingly difficult to work with Mr Alastair Morton, the chairman of Guinness Peat, which owns the merchant bank. Mr Ussell had wanted wider responsibilities after a decision last month by the group to raise more capital for Guinness Mahon.

The two men had known about B&C's plans and approached the group themselves. Mr Goldie said they would form the nucleus of a team of about 12 people in the bank.

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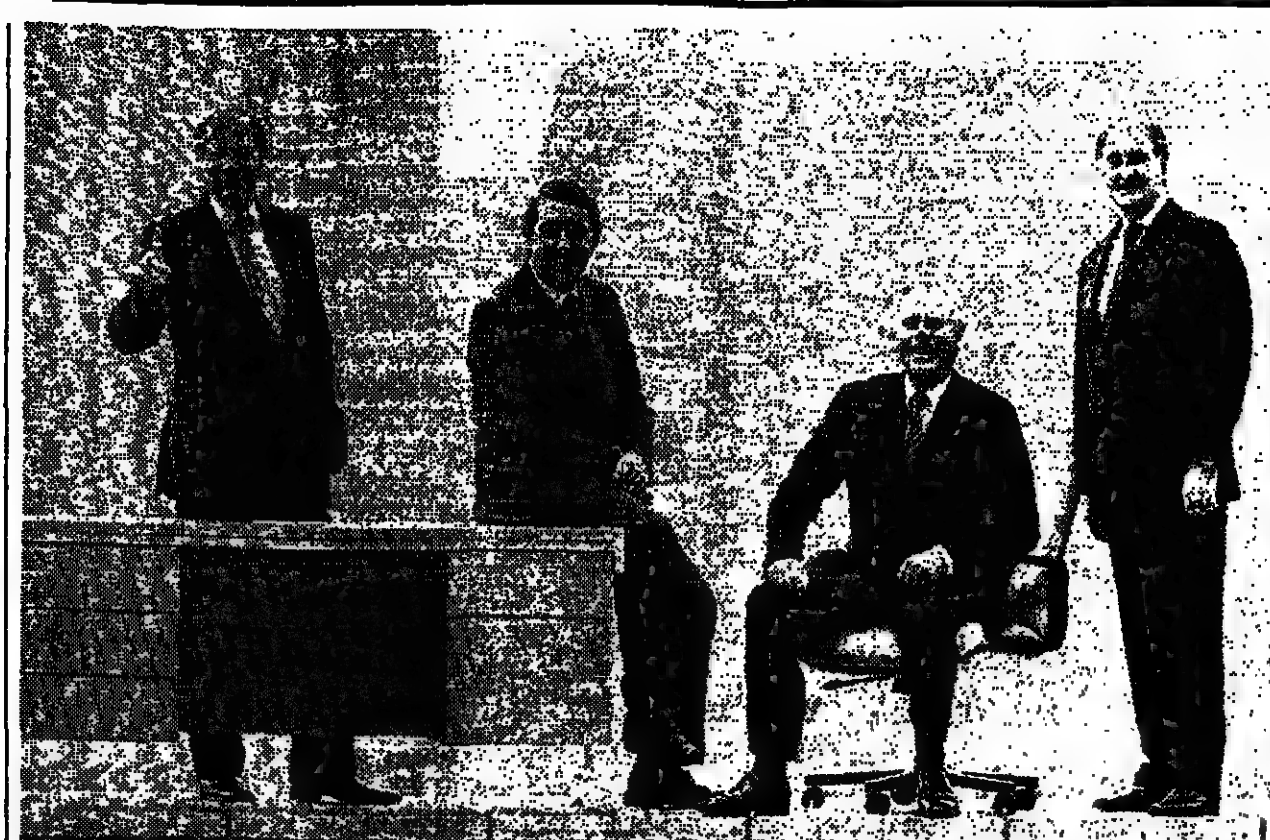
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Furniture to market: (from left) Moseley, Rigby, Currie and Leith, of the Alan Cooper group

GEC and Philips plan
£1.2bn medical empire

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The General Electric Company (GEC), of which Lord Weinstock is operational chairman, is expected to sign a partnership deal with Philips, the Dutch electrical and electronics group, within the next 24 hours.

This will create the world's largest medical electronics company.

GEC is expected to use some of its £1.6 billion cash mountain to pour more than £61 million into the combined operation which will put together the GEC subsidiary, the United States-based Picker International, and Philips Medical Systems.

GEC will inject the cash because Picker has sales of only about half those of Philips.

The combined sales of the new operation are likely to approach £1.22 billion, covering a range of medical diagnostic equipment particularly the high technology imaging machinery.

The new partnership, reflecting the pressures for global co-operation as the only really effective route to compete successfully in international markets, will push ahead of General Electric of the United States in size. Until now it has been the market leader.

GEC and Philips in this deal will crucially be able to throw greater weight behind development of the latest products in the field like the nuclear magnetic resonance machines (NMRS) which, in body scanning, are starting to supersede computerized tomography.

If as expected the deal covers all the medical interests of the two companies the partnership operation will have a workforce of about 17,000.

Both Picker and Philips have developed NMR machines. GEC's work on this being largely centred at Wembley in the London suburbs.

Picker, based in Ohio, also has production facilities in other countries, including West Germany and Canada.

GEC turnover in medical electronics last year was £420 million, yielding a pretax profit of £22 million.

Philips's substantially bigger operation includes production in a number of countries including Britain, where in Crawley work is centred on the Philips linear accelerators used in cancer treatment.

With Mr Currie yesterday were his directors Mr Andrew Moseley, Mr David Rigby, and Mr John Leith.

The directors of the furniture group, Alan Cooper, of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, yesterday travelled down to London to celebrate the placing of shares in the company.

The 130p tag on the 3,413,000 shares placed by Barclays de Zoete Wedd values the company at more than £13 million. Alan Cooper - once part of John Swire, the Far Eastern Hong, until a management buy-out led by the chairman, Mr James Blyth Currie in 1983 - specializes in systems office furniture. Profits were £1.554 million in the year to end-December.

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Furniture firm comes to market

By Ray Heath

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

Coca-Cola lifts profits to \$185.4 million

Coca-Cola said strong first quarter results continued the growth momentum from 1986 in market share, unit volume and earnings. It said first quarter operating income benefited from a world-wide increase in soft drinks volume of 10 per cent, higher results in the company's entertainment business and the decline in the American dollar.

The company said earnings for the first quarter rose to \$185.4 million (£113.74 million) from \$161.2 million for the same period last year. Coca-Cola said its operating income, before tax and other charges, rose by 27 per cent to \$324.1 million from \$255.4 million. It said its operating income for its entertainment business sector increased strongly on the continuing success of "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy," produced by Merv Griffin Enterprises, which Coca-Cola acquired last year.

Matsushita's £870m offer

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co said it is offering in the Japanese capital markets ¥200 billion (£870 million) of unsecured convertible debentures due 1996, with a 1.4 per cent coupon and par pricing. They are convertible into common stock from June 1, 1987, to September 27, 1986, at ¥1,533 (£6.67) a share.

ACLI Metals wins reprieve

ACLI Metals (London), a former London Metal Exchange trader, has won a 28-day reprieve in the High Court against a winding up petition filed by Metall and Rohstoff, a Swiss subsidiary of Associated Metals & Minerals Incorporated, the US metal broker. It filed the petition, claiming more than £43 million.

US output falls 0.3%

Industrial production in the US fell 0.3 per cent in March after a 0.5 per cent rise in February, according to the Federal Reserve Board. The March decline reflected widespread reductions in output. Production of durable consumer goods fell because of a cutback in car assembly operations and a further reduction in home goods, including appliances. Manufacturing output fell 0.2 per cent in March after a 0.6 per cent rise in February and included a 0.1 per cent decline in durables and a 0.3 per cent fall in nondurables. Manufacturing was 3.3 per cent above the level a year ago.

Scrip issue at Albert Fisher

Mr Tony Miller (right) the chairman of the food distribution group Albert Fisher is doubling the interim dividend to 1p a share, giving a one-for-two scrip issue, and forecasting a 1.25p final to double the annual total dividend to 2.25p a share. The profits have more than doubled from £3.22 million to £7.06 million for six months to February 28, on turnover of £101.3 million (£51 million).



Flagship for Wheway

Wheway is to buy Wright Air Conditioning, which will become the flagship of Wheway's new environmental division, for £5 million. The purchase price, to be paid to Mr George Wright and others, will be met through the issue of just under 16 million shares, of which 1.27 million will be retained by Wheway.

Wright Air Conditioning reported pretax profits of £652,000 on turnover of £16.39 million. Net tangible assets on December 31 were £1.67 million. The company is continuing to expand in Britain and overseas.

STOCK MARKET

Wall St rally helps shares to recover

By Cliff Feltham

Shares shrugged off the setback of the last few sessions to stage a firm recovery yesterday, as dealers decided some of the heavy falls had been overdone.

The mood was helped by an early rally on Wall Street and encouraged by the improved dollar, benefiting from the central bank intervention. Another opinion poll, pointing to a Conservative victory in a general election, gave the markets a pre-Easter boost with most sectors showing useful gains.

Even if the best advances of the day were not maintained, the FT-SE 100 share index still closed 13.3 points higher at 1,922.2. The narrow gauge of the market's progress, the FT 30 share index, ended the day 8.4 points better at 1,515.1.

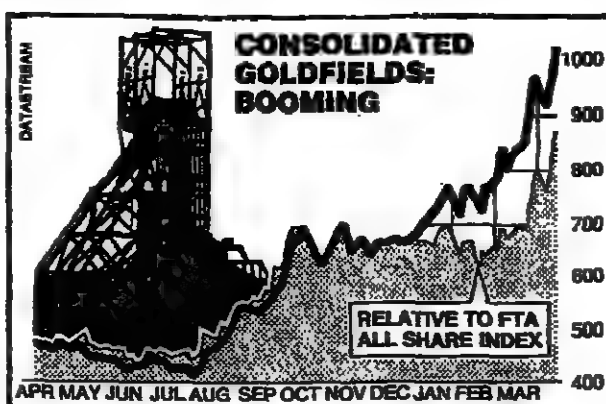
Gilts turned down, however, as the dollar encountered some renewed pressure at the end of the day and gains of 3% were replaced by falls of up to 1%.

Among leading shares, Glaxo advanced to 1,427p, up 12p, on further reflection of the figures, while Beecham gained 5p at 489p. The other member of the heavyweight club, Wellcome, moved smartly ahead, to finish at 424p, a rise of 17p.

Oils were back in favour, with BP adding 16p to 465p and Ultramar moving ahead to 222p, an 8p improvement. Guinness, ahead of figures next week, was 2p easier at 320p with turnover in the shares down on the previous day when 12 million changed hands, an estimated four million going to Drexel Burnham Lambert, the US securities house. Dealers say professional investors are staking a claim in case of an eventual break-up of the group.

Some analysts are now forecasting that Williams Holdings' bid for Norcross will fail. Norcross was 6p better yesterday, at 400p, level pegging with Williams' cash offer.

Market men were still banking on a bid for Bejam, the freezer chain. This is spite of denials earlier this week by Mr John Apthorp, the chairman, that he has spotted no sign of predators. The shares edged up by a further 4p to 174p. The talk is that a bid of about 210p a share could be decisive. Elsewhere, the sector's



heavyweights gained ground. Argyl rose by 3p to 402p, J Sainsbury was good for a 9p rise to 470p, while Tesco was 6p ahead at one time, before settling for a 5p improvement at 479p.

Helene of London, the fashion house, bounced up by 7p on improved profit performance, but profit-taking nipped the advance back and the shares settled for a 1p rise at 38p.

Bid talk still persists, but yesterday, Mr Maurice Hope, who once ran the R&J Pullman business and whose

Tilbury, the construction group, will be no pushover if Baine Industries decides to use its 23 per cent stake to stage a takeover attempt. Brokers are pencilling in Tilbury profits for this year of £6.5 million, up from £5.2 million. The shares were 2p firmer yesterday at 292p.

name has been linked with Helene, said: "I did look at it about a year ago, but changed my mind. I have no interest in it at all."

Extel, the news information group, was back on the rack yesterday after Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, who called off bid plans, put his 26 per cent shareholding up for tender at a minimum price of 420p, indicating that he was looking for a single buyer. The market view is that a lone purchaser would have only one intention - to use the stake as a platform for a full-scale bid.

The shares, which have been up to 558p, came back 14p to 449p and are likely to remain volatile until Mr Maxwell's holding finds a home - or homes. One likely buyer of the stake could be the

Pearson publishing group, according to some sources.

In electronics, Ferranti held up well, losing just 1p at 108p, despite a report from Wood Mackenzie, the broker, suggesting that it could be the main casualty from a cut-back in defence spending in the current year. GEC failed to hold a small improvement and finished at an unchanged 193p, while Boral also lost ground, finishing 4p down at 214p. International Signal & Control, backed by a strong order book, went 6p better at 260p.

Filefax, a market newcomer, was still showing its paces and put on another 3p to 165p - a 43p premium on the placing price.

Chrysalis announced the purchase of a television production company which, depending on future profits, could cost up to £3 million. The shares were unchanged at 257p.

Consolidated Gold Fields took a breather after the hectic climb which has brought the shares up from a low of 414p last July to a peak of 1,020p, before profit-taking yesterday clipped them back by 11p to 1,009p.

The most recent spurt has been encouraged by the run in the gold price and growing recognition of its expanding bullion interests, notably outside South Africa. In addition, the company spent some time in the sights of the American Barrick Resources group, which has, however, recently trimmed its stake.

This should be the year of higher profits for ConsGold and a rise in the dividend, which has been stuck at 24.5p a share since 1981. Analysts believe a firm gold price can only help to underpin the shares.

TEMPUS

Exchange rates gnaw at Hawker's profits

With quiet determination, Hawker Siddeley has been spending a fortune on acquisitions. Last year it spent £120 million on a range of electrical companies the length and breadth of America.

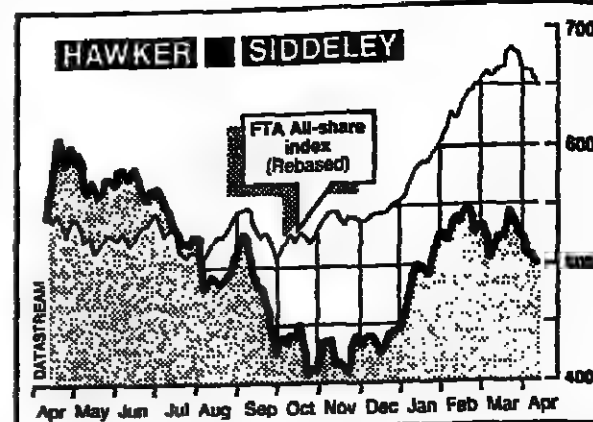
The group has paid cash, raising \$160 million (£98.16 million) of dollar-denominated debt which will help to insulate it from the worst effects of a weakening dollar. Nevertheless, the group is critically exposed to currency movements.

Currency was a big negative factor last year, as yesterday's preliminary release showed. Pretax profits fell 5 per cent to £152 million, on turnover up 1 per cent to £1.6 billion.

Apart from currency movements, which cost profits £9 million in 1986, Hawker blames the weak performance on the drop in the oil price at the end of 1985 which cost it another £9 million.

Any benefits of lower oil prices to manufacturers generally failed to offset the loss of markets in oil-producing countries, as was originally hoped. Shareholders' funds also declined for the second year running, due to £88 million of goodwill on acquisitions.

This year, profits will benefit by about \$10 million (£6.13 million) due to the elimination of losses in Canada and the US. In addition, the new acquisitions will make a full year's contribution - they added £6 million



to last year's results after financing costs.

Add some cost cutting and efficiency gains and the group should make £165 million pretax this year. But exchange rates can materially impact the figures, and a continuing weak dollar will hit profits.

The 10 times multiple and 5.2 per cent yield will limit the downside risk but the market is unlikely to become excited by the prospects and the shares are likely to drift.

Avana/RHM

Avana shareholders who are poised to accept the bid from Ranks Hovis McDougall should hold their pens, even though RHM appears close to victory.

In bald price terms, RHM's offer of 800p cash, or 806p in shares, looks generous against an Avana share price

of 463p on the day before RHM launched its first bid in February. Even Dr John Randall, Avana's feisty chairman, admits that if RHM loses, the price could drop by 50p.

So, is there any choice but to accept before the bid expires at one o'clock tomorrow? Taking the long-term view, the answer is "yes." Avana offers exposure to a high-margin specialist market, has excellent customers and has invested strongly in building up its niche.

It is precisely the type of company that will respond best as an independent. Dr Randall has proved that he can make shareholders' assets work spectacularly.

Avana's recent disappointing results can be genuinely attributed to consolidation and it deserves the chance to enjoy the benefits of that programme. Not accepting the bid is certainly a risk, but one worth taking.

Avis Europe powering upwards

Avis Europe really did try hard in its first year as a quoted company, beating its prospectus forecasts on both the revenue and the profits front. And with spring in the air, tourists coming back into Europe, and cost efficiencies coming through to the profits line, it looks like being an even better 1988 with profits of more than £40 million possible.

While prospectus forecasts are made to be beaten, the actual outcome with revenue at £235 million against a forecast £225 million, and pretax profits of £34.1 million, up 34 per cent on the year and compared with a forecast of not less than £33

million, saw the shares move into top gear yesterday, rising by 15p to 292p.

Avis had an uncertain stock market debut having been offered at 250p only to open at a discount. But, if growth is here to stay, and the uncertainty over whether to rate Avis as a financial group or a motor share is something of the past, the shares should stay on firmer ground.

In February, the group acquired the outstanding two-thirds stake in the Portuguese joint venture operation, which should have a decided impact on this year's profits, and has recently introduced a range of new

services to consolidate its lead in the rental-leasing market. The fleet increased by 34 per cent last year, and further strong advances on the leasing and rental fronts are likely.

Leasing looks like being the main area of growth this year. Now that the Euromarkets have been successfully tested with the DM100 million (£34.1 million) bond issue arranged in February, further financial exercises cannot be ruled out. However, even with gearing of 70 per cent, which in seasonal times can run well over the 200 per cent level, Avis says there is no need to increase its equity base.



What would you do with this space?

The Trocadero has 50,000 square feet of undeveloped space. The occupied units currently yield a rental income of £1,850,000. The property comes to the market, freehold, from 27 April, 1987. Details will be available on that date from Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks.

DEBENHAM TEWSON INTERNATIONAL
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Maxwell to sell 26% Extel stake by tender for £56m

By Our City Staff

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, is selling his 26 per cent stake in Extel, the news agency, printing and publishing group, in a tender offer at a minimum price of £20p a share. The sale will raise more than £56 million.

This month, Mr Maxwell announced he would be selling his entire holding in Extel — just more than 27 per cent — rather than launching a full bid for the company. Most of the stake is held by Mr Maxwell's Pergamon Media Trust, which is making the tender offer.

Mr Maxwell had been expected to bid for Extel once a Takeover Panel restriction lapsed at the end of this month. The speculation boosted the shares to a high of 565p at one point. His decision to sell sent them below 490p. Yesterday, they edged further back to 454p, down 9p on the day.

Mr Maxwell's decision to sell out at considerably lower than market value has prompted speculation that he may try to find another possible predator interested in buying his whole stake and then launching its own bid.

A bid were successful, this would leave him clear to buy up any parts of the Extel group he wanted from its new owner. Mr Maxwell is thought to be particularly interested in the printing and publishing side.

The sale of Mr Maxwell's Extel shares is part of a recent burst of corporate activity

which is remarkable even by Mr Maxwell's standards. During the past two weeks he has raised at least £175 million through sales of assets and also announced substantial moves to expand.

Last week Pergamon, Mr Maxwell's privately-controlled media company, sold 30 million shares in the British Printing and Communications Corporation, which is controlled by Pergamon. A further 10.5 million shares in Hollis, Mr Maxwell's quoted engineering company, which he plans to build into a substantial high technology and research-based concern, were also sold.

A few days later, Pergamon disposed of 8.5 million shares in the Arlington Securities property group, raising another £20 million.

So far no specific homes have been earmarked for the funds raised through these sell-offs. But in general terms, Maxwell spokesmen have indicated the aim is to diversify into electronic media, cable and satellite television.

The most recent corporate move came last Friday when the Maxwell Communication Corporation, a subsidiary of BPCC, announced it had agreed to buy the printing assets of Diversified Printing Corporation, a subsidiary of Parade, the world's largest magazine publisher. The agreement in principle included a long-term printing contract worth more than \$1 billion.



Robert Maxwell may want to repurchase parts of group

Smiths rises 11% to £25.2m

By John Bell

City Editor

Smiths Industries, the aerospace, marine and medical equipment concern, yesterday produced better-than-expected half-time profits of £25.2 million.

The 11 per cent rise, together with a confident statement from the board, lifted Smiths' share price from 290p to 302p.

"The results reaffirm the board's confidence in the company's profits growth for the rest of this year and beyond," said the statement.

Shareholders are to receive an interim dividend of 2p compared with 1.75p last time.

Earnings per share were 7.9p against 6.5p previously.

Over the past few years the group has been moving its business away from cyclical and commodity operations, such as automotive components and distribution, into more rapidly growing areas of long-term potential.

During the half-year to end January, the aerospace and defence activities were star performers, with profits rising 33 per cent to £11.7 million.

Both in Britain and the US these operations continued to make excellent progress, said the company, benefiting from a high level of research and development expenditure, which would be maintained.

The medical division has shown rapid and consistent growth lately.

Profits of £7,907 million were 15.2 per cent higher overall.

In Britain, the medical activities achieved record profits in home and export markets.

In the United States, the medical operations met strong competition and have been spending heavily on developing markets. But results were nevertheless satisfactory, said Smiths Industries.

Profits from the industrial group were almost £800,000 lower at £4,217 million, after the disposal of Integrated Air Systems and a sale of two other companies via management buy-outs.

The remaining businesses within the industrial group had mixed fortunes.

But there were encouraging signs of recovery in a number of industries served by the division.

In Australia, where profits were £100,000 lower at £1.4 million, the subsidiaries had benefited from the depreciation of the Australian dollar.

The recent good results there had been maintained, said the board.

COMMENT

The economy decides it's spring

Suddenly, it is spring. Unemployment is falling at a rate that will see it brush through the three million level by June; manufacturing productivity was up by nearly 7 per cent in a year, unit labour costs up by just 1 per cent and factory output up by nearly 4 per cent on a year ago.

Even the cyclical indicators for the economy, hidden away among the cogs and wheels of the Government's statistical machine for so long, appear to confirm the rosy picture.

We are in a period when virtually every official statistic comes up better than outside analysts expected. At such a time, it is easy to be carried away and so let us gently place our feet back on the ground. Firstly, yesterday's labour-market statistics. The 30,100 drop in adult unemployment last month, provided further confirmation of the downward trend begun last summer. The drop over the past six months is the best for 14 years.

But now, as was predicted, the Government is suffering the penalty of earlier tinkering with the unemployment statistics and has become a victim of its own success with the Restart scheme. Thus, the Employment Institute says that four-fifths on the present 25,000-a-month fall in the adult unemployment total is due to Restart, tougher availability for work tests and expansion of job-creation measures.

Lord Young, the Employment Secretary, made a rare appearance at the official briefing on the figures yesterday,

but failed to clear the fog surrounding the unemployment statistics. Opposition politicians who estimated the effect of Restart on the unemployment figures were talking through their hats, he said, because such effects were impossible to quantify. The problem with this was that, by the same token, his own assertion that unemployment was falling because of stronger economic growth was open to question.

The latest manufacturing figures, which formed the basis for both the dramatic upturn in productivity and the slowdown in unit labour costs, also need to be taken with a small quantity of salt. The revisions to the data at the end of last year, pushing up output by around 1.5 per cent, were not typical. Indeed, the official statisticians have introduced special adjustments into the figures to prevent this from happening.

Manufacturing output is rising at a healthy 3 to 4 per cent rate, but not at the 2.5 per cent a quarter suggested by the rise between the third and fourth quarters. Thus, both the 6.9 per cent rise in manufacturing productivity and the low 1 per cent increase in unit labour costs in the 12 months to February were somewhat special.

There is certainly growth in the economy. We do not know yet how much of this is a one-off response to sterling's lower level and how much it will be sustainable. But the longer it continues, the more that the fall in unemployment can be taken to be genuine.

Now free traders stand up

The free traders in industry and politics have kept their heads below the parapet while ritual Japan-bashing has intensified. Now that there is a strong threat of a real trade war — which is bound to drag in Europe — they are beginning to make their voices heard. That is as well given that Britain, like Germany, exports a far higher proportion of its output than either surplus Japan or the deficit US.

The CBI is the latest to adjust its stance. Last month, John Banham, its new director-general, was steadfastly supporting Cable & Wireless in its bid to lead Japan's alternative overseas telephone network — as he should — and warning regretfully that the resistance of Japan's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications was "bound to spark retaliation."

The priorities have changed. Britain's big companies fear that once protection moves up a gear, it will accelerate unpredictably. They made their views plain at the CBI's monthly council meeting. Cable & Wireless should be supported, but much more is at stake.

The CBI has come out unequivocally against trade sanctions against Japan.

This is a vital and encouraging change of view. The problem is that resheathing the sabre once it has been thoughtlessly rattled might now undermine Cable & Wireless in its difficult negotiations in Tokyo though Cable's redoubtable chairman Sir Eric Sharp is not likely to be too bothered by that.

Yesterday's talks on recasting the combined consortium demanded by the Japanese government showed how far apart the two sides still are. But there are clearly plenty of negotiating possibilities. The starting position is that Cable, Pacific Telesis and six Japanese groups are to be treated as core companies each with the same shareholding. On the other hand Mr Nakasone has confirmed that he would like the utility to have the maximum 33 per cent foreign interest legally.

These two requirements appear incompatible unless the core companies have only modest shareholdings and large numbers of fringe foreign firms are brought in. Either way, Cable can surely expect to snatch a 10 per cent stake.

McKechie hits record at half-time

By Carol Ferguson

McKechie, the West Midlands engineer which successfully fought off unwelcome bids from Newman, Tokes and Evered last year, announced record results at the half-year stage.

Not only were all the figures at record levels — turnover, pretax profit and earnings per share — but the good performance extended across all geographical and product areas.

Dr Jim Butler, the chairman, while commenting on the results, said: "The predators who attacked us last year were right in thinking McKechie is a company with lots of potential."

The advances shown in the past half year and the previous year are evidence of solid growth which we are confident can be maintained."

Pretax profits jumped 33 per cent to £11.7 million in the six months to January 31, on turnover up 5 per cent to £113 million. Earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 11.39p, despite a higher tax charge.

The interim dividend was raised by 0.3p to 3.3p net.

PSM International, which was acquired during the period, made a contribution to profits of £650,000.

Trent Valley Plastics was acquired in February, after the half-year end, and did not affect the results.

In the interim statement released yesterday, the company said the second half had started with similar trading patterns, giving confidence in its expectation of "further satisfactory profits growth" for the year.

Barratt's best-laid plans...

For the nation's best-known house builder it must be more than a trifling galling. Currently restoring a number of aged properties on his north York-shire estate, Sir Lawrence Barratt, chairman of Barratt Developments, has had his redevelopment plans for the hamlet of Low Mill turned down by the local council because they "aren't good enough". Claiming officially that the intended alterations to doors and windows "would be out of keeping with its character", one planning officer for North York Moors National Park said, with feigned horror in his voice, "He wanted to turn it into a Barratt bungalow." Poor Sir Lawrence, who is, after all these years, used to dealing with the whims of pedantic planners, is likely to take a second look at the moorland stone storehouse in ten days time when he is expected to lead the annual "daffodil walk" from the church on his estate to the band room in Low Mill.

Perhaps President Reagan should have been a Eurobond dealer instead. His 1986 tax return to the IRS reveals that he paid the equivalent of £56,000 in tax — which means he earned an estimated £200,000 last year.

Higher tech

Airships may appear to be old-fashioned, low-tech things, but the Australian-owned British-based Airship Industries has proved the oppo-

Japanese trade C&W senses flexibility

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Japanese authorities are being more realistic in considering Cable and Wireless's attempt to break into the country's international telecommunications market. However, the two consortia bidding for the single licence failed to narrow their differences yesterday.

Mr Jonathan Solomon, C&W's director for corporate development, said he found a greater flexibility within the bureaucracy, government and private sector after the first meeting on the unification of two consortia bidding for the chance to launch the one company so far on offer from the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

For the first time, C&W was represented at yesterday's meeting of six of the core

companies from International Digital Communications, of which C&W is a part, and International Telecommunications Japan.

Both sides laid out their visions of the venture, including discussion of a new trans-Pacific cable, where there were differences on principle and timing, and the percentage of the new firm to be allotted to the eight core companies.

Disagreement over the need for the cable prevented detailed discussion of some other points.

The meeting, at general manager level, showed the consortia "miles apart," according to C&W, but they agreed to continue talking. No date was set for the next meeting.

Mr Solomon, convinced that progress was being made,

said: "I notice flexibility growing in the various positions which were hardened, those within the ministry, within the government of Japan and in the private sector."

"There is flexibility towards many possibilities — they're now prepared to consider that there may be different approaches."

The process was assisted by pressure from the United States, which is to include the subject in its Market Opening Sector-Selective talks.

"More people realize that what we propose is not only good for Cable and Wireless but for the whole of IDC and Japan," Mr Solomon said.

C&W hopes to obtain a favourable decision by July, the latest at which it will be possible to make decisions to enable a 1989 in-service date for the Pacific cable.

EEC inquiry into dumping

By Colin Narbrough

The European Commission yesterday announced an inquiry into possible Japanese dumping on the EEC market of computer printers as Japan reluctantly agreed to a formal investigation of its semiconductor pact with the US.

The EEC this week agreed to retaliate against Japan in the trade field unless Tokyo acted fast to open its market to foreign goods.

This followed Britain's lone attempt to exert pressure on Japan to open its markets or face retaliation.

The US, which like the EEC, wants early redress to its huge trade imbalance with Japan, is

due to impose punitive tariffs \$300 million (£184 million) worth of Japanese electronic goods from tomorrow in retaliation for alleged dumping by Japan in breach of a bilateral accord on semiconductor pricing.

EEC officials said yesterday the investigation now authorized into Japanese computer printers was the biggest of its kind ever undertaken by Brussels.

The market is believed to be worth about \$1 billion a year to the Japanese.

In Geneva, Mr Yoshio Hatano, the Japanese Trade Ambassador, said he had agreed to the setting up of a

formal disputes panel under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to examine an EEC complaint over the US-Japanese semiconductor agreement. The panel members will be named in a few weeks.

"We have agreed reluctantly to the dispute panel. We did not want to block the dispute settlement procedure," he said.

Earlier, he had told the Gatt council, representing 93 nations, that Japan would seek urgent bilateral consultations with Washington under Gatt rules if President Reagan imposed the threatened tariffs tomorrow.

Trevor for president

Sir Trevor Holdsworth, likeable and shrewd £159,000-a-year chairman of GKN, emerged yesterday as the unanimous nominee to succeed David Nickson as president of the CBI next year.

Sir Trevor, aged 59, will be elected deputy president at the CBI's annual meeting on May 20 and will take over from the Scottish & Newcastle Breweries chairman a year later. The new man has played a leading role in CBI affairs and has been a member of the CBI policy-making council since 1974. In recent years he has been chairman of the CBI's tax reform working party and served on economic and financial policy and unemployment committees.

Sir Trevor, a chartered accountant and former chairman of the British Institute of Management, endeared himself to all earlier this week by delivering an annual report announcing greater GKN spending on research and development and attacking a short term approach to capital and technological investment as leading "inevitably to corporate sterility and ultimate decline." Norman Tebbit is also quite happy, no doubt, with the £10,000 GKN donated to Conservative Party coffers last year.

● The problems of Menahem Golan and Yoram Globes, the duo behind the American film and cinema group Cannon, just will not go away. I hear that they have been forced to sell their share in a joint cable video venture with the US cable group Home Box Office, to raise a paucity \$5 million.

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Rebirth for Chrysalis

Horse racing fan Chris Wright, chairman and co-founder of record group, Chrysalis, which yesterday announced the £2 million takeover of studio and outside broadcaster RPS, might be able to watch his latest acquisition in action at Sandown Park on June 12. He will be at the Surrey race course for Chrysalis Race Day, along with the expected sprinkling of pop stars. One of the races

being televised will be the Chrysalis Charming Stakes, for which the standard £12,000 prize money has been increased to more than £45,000 — making it the most valuable claiming race ever held in Britain. Wright, aged 42, who started Chrysalis when he was just 19, owns a stable of some six racehorses and may have one or two racing on the day.

osie. In a notable coup, a £6 million deal has been struck with a "secret" customer in Japan to lease for 12 months one of the blimps fully equipped with the latest electronic night-time advertising



"Come on, cheer up. It's Easter and the stock market is closed."

Another exciting chapter in a continuing success story.

SALIENT FIGURES

Unaudited figures for 6 months to 31 Jan.

	1987 (\$m)	1986 (\$m)
Turnover	113.0	107.1
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	11.7	8.8
Net attributable profit	7.1	6.0
Dividends per share (net)	3.3p	3.0p
Earnings per share (net)	11.3p	9.9p

McKechie is delighted to announce record results for the half-year to 31 January 1987.

Profits before tax, at £11.72 million, are 33% up on the corresponding half-year, on turnover up by 5%; earnings rose by 19% despite higher tax.

But the facts behind the figures are no less impressive.

Profit has improved in all geographic areas and all major business sectors. Furthermore, PSM International plc, acquired during the period, contributed just over £650,000 to operating profits.

At the same time, the Group continued to develop and to seek greater

efficiencies. The UK subsidiaries have been reorganised into four divisions, in a way which reflects our strengths in plastics, metals and consumer products.

A further acquisition, of Trent Valley Plastics Limited, took place after the end of the half-year. And on 1 February, the name of the company was changed from McKechie Brothers plc to McKechie plc, as a symbol of the spirit of change and development throughout the Group.

The second half-year has started well, giving confidence in our expectation of "further satisfactory profits growth" in the year as a whole.

The interim dividend is increased from 3.0p to 3.3p per share.

McKECHIE

A SUCCESS STORY - TO BE CONTINUED

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

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The review shows an average rate increase of 7.25 and an increase of 5 per cent in the combined total for rent and rates, just above inflation.

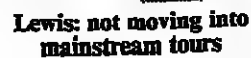
By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Astra pays

By Lawrence Lever

The deal is already in the bag, with the WSL board and other institutions having accepted in respect of just over 50 per cent of WSL shares.

Mr Derek Lewis, the fi-



Rather it would be used as "a platform for rapid and aggressive development in the very clearly defined market segments in which WSL operates," he said.

WSL specializes in school tour holidays, adult ski holidays, aircraft seat broking, and Italian up-market holidays.

Mr Peter Hopkins, the deputy chairman of WSL, has signed a three-and-a-half year service agreement with Granada.

The price will not exceed \$100 million, and the company is offering a total of 86.5 million shares at 28p per share, giving additional working capital on top of the \$100 million raised from the public float.

	Apr 14	Apr 13		Apr 14	Apr 13		Apr 14	Apr 13
Revenue	20%	20%	Revenue	20%	20%	Revenue	20%	20%

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EQUITIES			
Admiral Corp (150p)	174	Regina H Beauty (20p)	42
Adco (150p)	190 +1	Reliance S&C	166 +3
Burford (80p)	165 +2	Sanders Sydney (100p)	143
Camb Instr (130p)	163	Scandinavian R (210p)	226
Capital Radio (100p)	176	Sinclair G S (80p)	111 +4
Casale Corp (200p)	216	T&B Group (100p)	112 +1
Cundell New (125p)	150 +2	Watergate (140p)	106 +2
Dale Group (110p)	123 -2	Wilson Bond R (100p)	176
Epwin (155p)	161	Wyveane New (120p)	168 -1
Holcor	161 -3		
Holcor (100p)	113 +2	RIGHTS ISSUES	
J&B Bicy (110p)	125 -1	Altebono F/P	71 -1
Lon & Metro (140p)	246	City S&M Est F/P	217
MIL (142p)	194 -1	DPCE N/P	136
March 26	153	Iceland N/P	38 +1
Mallard (120p)	186 -2	Ladbrook F/P	406 +8
Melville (110p)	126	Wash Ind F/P	90 +5
Morphy Asset	205	Pet Pet F/P	34 -2
Nobo (150p)	176 -1	Whidney F/P	42
Northern (100p)	161		

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Alfred-Lyons	1,700	English China	291	Rank Org	826
American	1,800	Fleming	370	Rank Hovis	1,800
Anglo	5,710	Gen Cassard	362	Reaford	173
Asda-B&MFI	7,100	Glaxo	9,000	Reckitt Colman	755
Asda Br Foods	354	Globe Int	2,520	Reid	75
B&E	800	Globe IT	878	Reivers	1,400
B&T	2,800	Granada	1,400	RMC Group	318
B&T	3,100	Grand Met	6,900	Royal T	1,100
BAT	1,000	GUS 'A'	21	Rover	1,600
B&S	967	GUS	61	RYA of Scot	485
Beecham	2,400	GKN	293	Sainsbury	3,600
Bleu Circle	867	Guinness	2,600	Scotch	481
B&O	400	Hanson	5,400	Sainsbury (I)	1,800
B&O Inc	3,650	Hawker Siddaway	3,900	Sains	5,000
B&S	843	Hillside	1,500	Sedgwick Op	1,100
BPOC	63	Imp Chem Ind	1,700	Shel	4,900
B&S	1,200	Imp Chem Gas	3,500	Sherriff & Nephew	1,100
Br Altruism	11,000	Imperial	840	STC	1,000
Br Cam	771	Ladbroke	875	Stn Chart	136
Br Gas	14,000	Land Securities	2,700	Storehouse	1,600
Br Interiors	4,100	Legal & Gen	1,200	Sun Alliance	710
Br Telecom	6,600	Leyland	1,000	Tarmac	2,000
Britoil	2,800	Lorain	1,500	TSS PPT	1,900
Burton	3,317	Martins & Spencer	500	Tesco	592
Burns	6,300	MEPC	1,500	Tesco EMU	699
Butcher & Wintress	3,800	Miles	1,500	Treasure House	800
Caribbean Schwep	4,000	Nat West	2,700	Umagro	1,500
Casare Vignola	353	P & M Oil Divd	877	Unicomp	560
Chem Union	3,600	Petroleum	449	Unilever	1,520
Chem Goldings	1,700	Petroleum E&S	3,000	Unilever	250
Cookson Grp	470	Prosser	1,800	W&A Watson	220
Courtauld	1,700	Prudential	925	Whitehead 'N'	742
Deerp	2,600	Racal	4,300	Worleworth	1,100
Dormor	1,600	Stackhouse	1,000		

1988			Price		
High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change
450	180	Alabect Group	390	420	n/c
90	10	American Air Patrol	28	32	n/c
725	110	Alcan Inc.	120	130	n/c
125	114	Altman Commercial	60	68	n/c
68	28	Arcon Reson	63	68	+1
150	121	Eastman Long	185	195	n/c
83	10	Equinox Oil Ireland	43	45	+1
41	8	Do. Williams	25	27	n/c
29	17	Publishing Holdings	26	28	-1
573	138	Thermo Chemicals	52	58	n/c
133	114	Unit Group	112	117	n/c

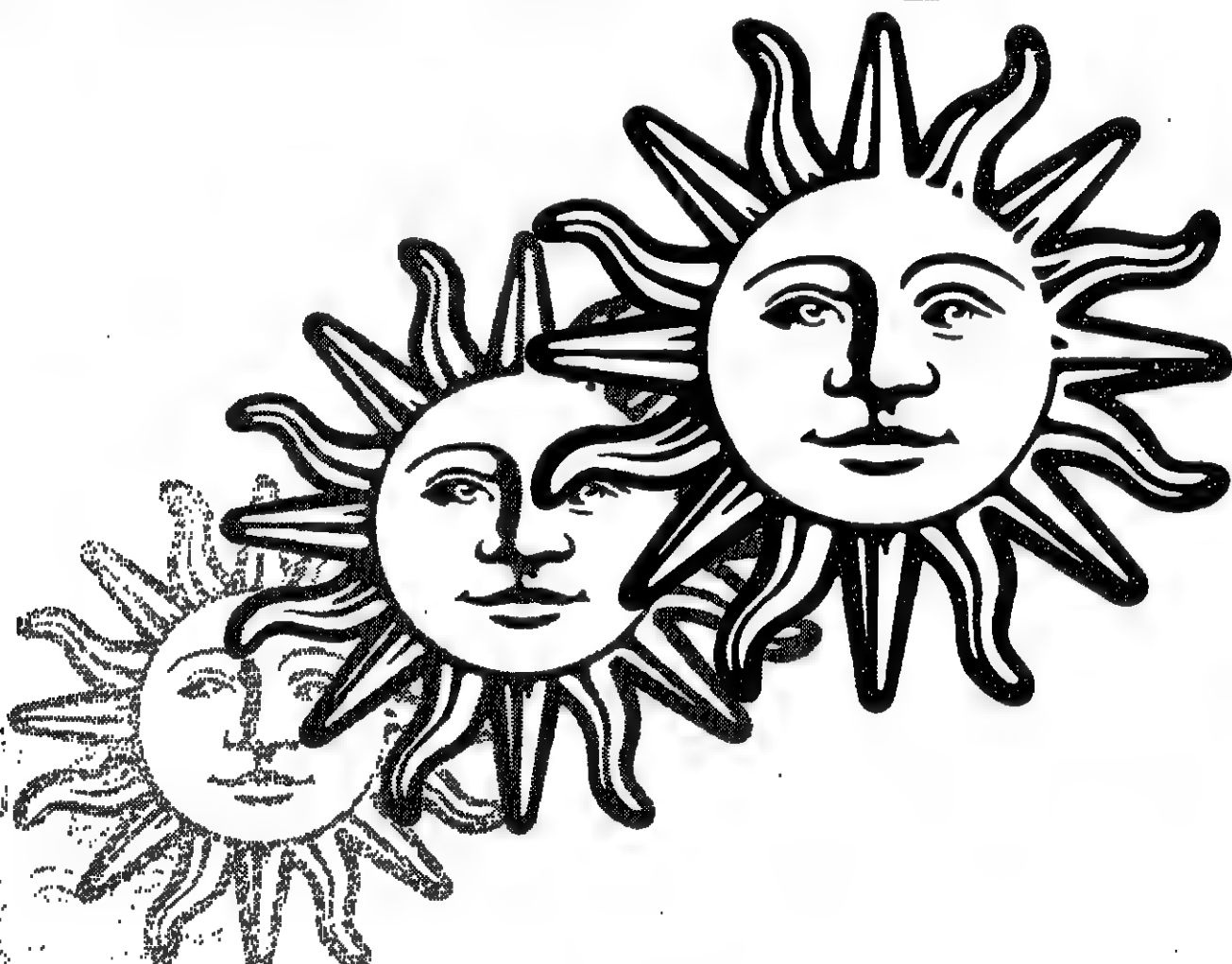
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Interbank (%)		Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV	
Overnight: open 9% close 6		Average reference rate for interest period February 28, 1987 to March 31, 1987 inclusive: 10.053 per cent.	
1 week 9%-9%	6 month 9%-9%		
1 month 9%-9 ¹² / ₁₆	9 month 9%-9%		
3 month 9%-9 ¹ / ₂	12 month 9%-9%		

6 month 3 1/2-4	12 month 9.5-9.9
Dollar CDs (%)	
1 month 6.5-7.5	3 month 6.5-9.0
3 month 7.5-10.0	12 month 7.35-10.0
EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %	
Dollar	coll
3 days 5.5-6%	1 month 6.5-5%
7 days 7-6%	3 month 7 1/4-6%
Swissmark	coll 4 1/2-3 1/4
1 month 6-5%	1 month 5%
3 month 6-3%	3 month 4 1/4-3 1/4
French Franc	coll 8-7
7 days 8 1/4-4	1 month 8 1/4-9 1/4
1 month 8 1/4-9	3 month 8 1/4-9 1/4
Swiss Franc	coll 1 1/4-1
7 days 1 1/4-1 1/4	1 month 3 1/4-3 1/4
1 month 3 1/4-4	3 month 3 1/4-4
1 year 4 1/4-4 1/4	coll 4 1/4-3 1/4
1 month 4 1/4-4	1 month 4 1/4-4

ABN	10.00%
Adem & Company	10.00%
BCCI	10.00%
Citibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.



£17,400,000
Profit after tax up 23%

Other successes in 1986 included seven of our unit trusts being listed by

Sun Life has expanded rapidly from its traditional life insurance base. If you would like to hear more about a year in the life of what is now one of Britain's most consister





We offer you nutrition advice.



So you can eat healthier food.



And you'll be our customer for longer.

At Tesco we pride ourselves on our record of innovation.

In the case of nutrition information panels on our products we were the first major UK supermarket chain to promote the idea, well in advance of Government action. These panels now appear on over 2,000 Tesco products.

You'll also find educational pamphlets on healthy eating in store, while our research kitchens produce new products geared to a healthier lifestyle. Over the last 12 months we've even gone as far as to reformulate over 400 products to reduce or replace artificial additives.

Tesco do this because of a belief that quality is what builds business.

TESCO

Making an investment in quality.

APPOINTMENTS

New chief for Citizen Watch

Citizen Watch (UK): Mr Brian Taylor has become vice-president, marketing.

APV Baker: Mr MRH Smith, Mr CW Joyce and Mr JC McCaskle have been made executive directors and Mr GL Law a non-executive director.

Ensign: Mr Robert Mackenzie becomes chief executive, exhibitions division.

Brooklands Aerospace Group: Sir Ronald Ellis has been made non-executive chairman, with Mr A Haikney and Mr PJ Molony as deputy chairmen, Mr JR Hodge as a director and general manager, and Mr J Henderson as a non-executive director.

Frontaprim: Mr Derek Mothershead becomes managing director.

Coopers & Lybrand: Mr Tony Abrahams, Mr Bernard Bland, Mr Jim Driscoll, and Mr Bob Etherington have been made directors; Mr Jeff McIntosh and Mr Peter Sills partners.



Brian Taylor

British Customs: Mr Richard Figgins becomes sales director.

UBM Building Supplies (Central): Mr Roger Marsden is made managing director.

Rauma-Repola Group: Mr Magnus Savander joins the group executive committee.

Cannon Street Investments: Mr Dennis Baylin, Mr Brian Sowercroft, Mr Lawrence Slapper, Mr Gordon Carruth and Mr Stephen Cadler become directors; Mr Roger Abraham and Mr Jeremy Brownlow non-executive directors.

Bentalls' profits rise by 17.5%

Bentalls, the department stores group where Mr LER Bentall is the president, recovered from a disappointing first half-year to show a 17.5 per cent gain in pretax profits to £3.83 million in the year to the end of January. Shareholders are to receive a final dividend of 2.21p, making a total of 2.65p, compared with 2.3p last time. Earnings per share were up by 14 per cent to 3.55p.

Works enabling the new, £110 million redevelopment of the Kingston, Surrey, store site are almost completed. Bentalls' existing store will be able to trade without disruption for the next three years. The new store and a multi-storey car-park will open for trading in 1990.

Bentalls relaunched its charge card at the end of 1986 and the response, said the company, was good.

The current year has started well with sales up 13 per cent over the corresponding period of 1986.

In brief

STEEL BROTHERS HOLDINGS (subsidiary of British & Commonwealth Shipping): Group Turnover £392.3 million (£367.7 million). Pretax profit



Mr LER Bentall, president of Bentalls.

£11.7 million (£11.8 million). Earnings per share 39.69p (47.89p).

LONDON AND NORTHERN GROUP: In connection with its offer of its remaining holding of 845,035 ordinary shares of Tace (11.25 per cent), the company reports that the Tace shares will be available to London shareholders on the register as April 3 last in the proportion of one Tace share for every 132 London ordinaries held at 462.3p a share. If shareholders' basic entitlements are not fully taken up, shareholders are also entitled to apply for excess shares. The latest time for application and payment is May 11.

WADE POTTERIES: Half-year to January 31. Interim dividend 1.35p (1.1p). With figures in 2000: Sales 9,879 (£3.62). Pretax profit 1,020 (£673). Earnings per share 6.28p (3.84p). While demand has now flattened out in some areas, the board is optimistic that results for the second half should be marginally ahead of those in the first.

PARAMAR: Total dividend for 1986 1.33p (1.25p). Pretax profit £138,824 (£133,738). Earnings per share 2.22p (2.06p).

HELENE OF LONDON: Total dividend unchanged at 1.33p for 1986. With figures in 2000: Sales 20,161 (£4,740). Pretax profit 1,732 (£1,711). Earnings per share 3.1p (3.1p).

UNITED CERAMIC DISTRIBUTORS: Total dividend for 1986 4p (3.75p). With figures in 2000: Turnover 9,173 (£825). Pretax profit 330 (£255). Earnings per share 8.5p (6.3p).

ANCHOR CHEMICAL: Total dividend for 1986 5p (4.25p). With figures in 2000: Net turnover 32,612 (£20,964). Pretax profit 1,551 (£1,130). Earnings per share 22p (16.53p). Net assets per share 209p (191p). The group is now benefiting from the recent investment programme and, subject to reasonable trading conditions, the board looks with confidence to further growth in earnings in 1987.

CEMENT-ROADSTONE: Dr Michael Dargan, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that, although he can foresee continuing difficulties in the Irish market, the company now has the geographical spread and balance to sustain overall development. It has a strong balance sheet, a good cash-flow and an aggressive management. The company's thrust is towards further expansion abroad.

SWINDON PRIVATE HOSPITAL: Half-year to January 31. With figures in 2000: Turnover 931 (£810). Pretax profit 86 (£24). Earnings per share 4.0p (1.7p).

IBCENTROL: The company has signed a £50 million medium-term facility with a group of seven banks. This facility was arranged by Barclays Bank as manager and agent bank.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Starting	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	90.53	90.45	90.47	90.47	3727
Jul 87	90.53	90.45	90.47	90.47	350
Aug 87	90.53	90.45	90.47	90.47	31
Sep 87	90.53	90.45	90.47	90.47	31
Oct 87	90.53	90.45	90.47	90.47	31
Nov 87	90.53	90.45	90.47	90.47	31
Dec 87	90.53	90.45	90.47	90.47	31
Previous day's total open interest	25880				

Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	92.90	92.97	92.97	92.97	12572
Jul 87	92.90	92.97	92.97	92.97	3180
Aug 87	92.90	92.97	92.97	92.97	623
Sep 87	92.90	92.97	92.97	92.97	87
Oct 87	92.90	92.97	92.97	92.97	
Nov 87	92.90	92.97	92.97	92.97	
Dec 87	92.90	92.97	92.97	92.97	
Previous day's total open interest	27191				

US Treasury Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	94.18	94.18	94.18	94.18	11818
Sep 87	94.18	94.18	94.18	94.18	
Dec 87	94.18	94.18	94.18	94.18	
Previous day's total open interest	0				

Long GN	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	129.80	129.81	129.80	129.80	34795
Sep 87	129.80	129.81	129.80	129.80	
Dec 87	129.80	129.81	129.80	129.80	
Previous day's total open interest	4080				

FT-SE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80	1156
Sep 87	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80	
Dec 87	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80	
Previous day's total open interest	0				

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
Apr 13	May 1	May 23	August 3
Call options were taken out on: 18/4/87 Greenwind Resources, Property Trust, NY Holdings, Morgan Grenville, Southern Ventures, Samson, Ultramar, Halcrow of London, Marley, Sound Diffusion, TR Energy, J Crowther, Stone International, Flaxton, Saurcliff & Saurcliff, Artyne Group, JFB, Ensign, Mitchell Schmers, Ashley Inds, Dares Estates, Danks Heat, Bristol Channel, London Securities, Legal & General, Bala Resources, Put Ultramar.			

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
April 15	April 15	April 15	April 15
N York 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
London 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Frankfurt 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Paris 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Brussels 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Amsterdam 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Geneva 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Basel 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Zurich 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Vienna 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Budapest 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Warsaw 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Prague 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Bratislava 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Sofia 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Bucharest 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Belgrade 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Skopje 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Thessalonika 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Solofia 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Patras 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Argo 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Nauplia 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Corinth 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Patras 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Argo 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Nauplia 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645
Corinth 1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645	1.645-1.645

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up at 72.1 (day's range 72.0-72.2).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	2.482-2.482
Australia dollar	2.138-2.137
Bahrain dirham	0.828-0.818
Brazil cruzeiro	36.220-36.480
Cypriot pound	0.780-0.780
Danish krone	7.165-7.205
Deutsche mark	2.140-2.140
French franc	6.555-6.555
Irish pound	2.710-2.710
Italian lire	2.075-2.075
Japanese yen	2.015-2.015
Malaysian dollar	1.850-1.850
Mexican peso	1.650-1.650
New Zealand dollar	2.780-2.780
Saudi riyal	0.475-0.475
Singapore dollar	1.650-1.650
South African rand	3.472-3.472
Swedish krona	5.052-5.052
Swiss franc	2.015-2.015
U.S. dollar	1.650-1.650
U.S. dollar	1.650-1.650

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Ecol.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Call				Put			
Series	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Julius L. (1987)	380	12	26	40	4	18	26	38
(738)	380	12	26	40	4	18	26	38
British Gas (192)	80	12	17	20	%	2%	4%	4%
British Airways (135)	110	26	27	30	%	1%	5%	10
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
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BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (767)	550	26	75	102	18	36	42	48
British Airways (135)	110	16	19	22	10	12	14	16
BP (

Portfolio
Gold

From your portfolio card check your share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated. If you are a back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Allied-Lyons (as)	Breweries	
2	SNIA RPS	Chemicals, Plastics	
3	Arcton	Electricals A-D	
4	Vokes	Electricals	
5	De La Rue	Electricals A-D	
6	Bell Bros	Building, Roads	
7	Int Leisure	Leisure	
8	Williams Higgs	Industrial S-Z	
9	Fins Leisure	Leisure	
10	Bemrose	Paper, Print, Adv	
11	Relvon	Industrial L-R	
12	Br Dredging	Building, Roads	
13	Jones (Ernest)	Drugs, Stores	
14	Bradstock	Insurance	
15	Scot & New (as)	Finance & Land	
16	Maigie	Finance & Land	
17	Barclay & Dobson	Finance	
18	Lep	Industrial L-R	
19	Tate & Lyle	Food	
20	New London Oil	Oil, Gas	
21	Partridge	Property	
22	Trasler Hse (as)	Industrial S-Z	
23	Brown (Matthew)	Breweries	
24	Riley Leisure	Leisure	
25	Relvon	Industrial L-R	
26	EMAP	Insurance	
27	Lucas	Newspaper, Print	
28	Abbey	Building, Roads	
29	Baker Harris	Property	
30	Br Motair	Textiles	
31	P & O Ltd (as)	Shipping	
32	Bersford (S & W)	Food	
33	BSS Group	Industrial A-D	
34	Norcor	Industrial L-R	
35	ASDA-MPI (as)	Food	
36	Gerrard Nat	Bank, Discount	
37	PWS	Insurance	
38	Tate & Lyle	Food	
39	Hickson	Office Traders	
40	Alanco	Finance & Land	
41	Chamberlain Ph	Industrial A-D	
42	Hogg Robinson	Insurance	
43	GM Kalgouri	Mining	
44	RHM (as)	Food	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
The weekend game will be played on Good Friday, when the weekly prize will be £16,000. Note your daily totals below

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
------	------	-----	------	-------	---	-----

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
100	100	100	100	100	0	0
101	101	101	101	101	0	0
102	102	102	102	102	0	0
103	103	103	103	103	0	0
104	104	104	104	104	0	0
105	105	105	105	105	0	0
106	106	106	106	106	0	0
107	107	107	107	107	0	0
108	108	108	108	108	0	0
109	109	109	109	109	0	0
110	110	110	110	110	0	0
111	111	111	111	111	0	0
112	112	112	112	112	0	0
113	113	113	113	113	0	0
114	114	114	114	114	0	0
115	115	115	115	115	0	0
116	116	116	116	116	0	0
117	117	117	117	117	0	0
118	118	118	118	118	0	0
119	119	119	119	119	0	0
120	120	120	120	120	0	0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
100	100	100	100	100	0	0
101	101	101	101	101	0	0
102	102	102	102	102	0	0
103	103	103	103	103	0	0
104	104	104	104	104	0	0
105	105	105	105	105	0	0
106	106	106	106	106	0	0
107	107	107	107	107	0	0
108	108	108	108	108	0	0
109	109	109	109	109	0	0
110	110	110	110	110	0	0
111	111	111	111	111	0	0
112	112	112	112	112	0	0
113	113	113	113	113	0	0
114	114	114	114	114	0	0
115	115	115	115	115	0	0
116	116	116	116	116	0	0
117	117	117	117	117	0	0
118	118	118	118	118	0	0
119	119	119	119	119	0	0
120	120	120	120	120	0	0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
100	100	100	100	100	0	0
101	101	101	101	101	0	0
102	102	102	102	102	0	0
103	103	103	103	103	0	0
104	104	104	104	104	0	0
105	105	105	105	105	0	0
106	106	106	106	106	0	0
107	107	107	107	107	0	0
108	108	108	108	108	0	0
109	109	109	109	109	0	0
110	110	110	110	110	0	0
111	111	111	111	111	0	0
112	112	112	112	112	0	0
113	113	113	113	113	0	0
114	114	114	114	114	0	0
115	115	115	115	115	0	0
116	116	116	116	116	0	0
117	117	117	117	117	0	0
118	118	118	118	118	0	0
119	119	119	119	119	0	0
120	120	120	120	120	0	0

UNDATED

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
100	100	100	100	100	0	0
101	101	101	101	101	0	0
102	102	102	102	102	0	0
103	103	103	103	103	0	0
104	104	104	104	104	0	0
105	105	105	105	105	0	0
106	106	106	106	106	0	0
107	107	107	107	107	0	0
108	108	108	108	108	0	0
109	109	109	109	109	0	0
110	110	110	110	110	0	0
111	111	111	111	111	0	0
112	112	112	112	112	0	0
113	113	113	113	113	0	0
114	114	114	114	114	0	0
115	115	115	115	115	0	0
116	116	116	116	116	0	0
117	117	117	117	117	0	0
118	118	118	118	118	0	0
119	119	119	119	119	0	0
120	120	120	120	120	0	0

INDEX-LINKED

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
100	100	100	100	100	0	0
101	101	101	101	101	0	0
102	102	102	102	102	0	0
103	103	103	103	103	0	0
104	104	104	104	104	0	0
105	105	105	105	105	0	0
106	106	106	106	106	0	0
107	107	107	107	107	0	0
108	108	108	108	108	0	0
109	109	109	109	109	0	0
110	110	110	110	110	0	0
111	111	111	111	111	0	0
112	112	112	112	112	0	0
113	113	113	113	113	0	0
114	114	114	114	114	0	0
115	115	115	115	115	0	0
116	116	116	116	116	0	0
117	117	117	117	117	0	0
118	118	118	118	118	0	0
119	119	119	119	119	0	0
120	120	120	120	120	0	0

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
100	100	100	100	100	0	0
101	101	101	101	101	0	0
102	102	102	102	102	0	0
103	103	103	103	103	0	0
104	104	104	104	104	0	0
105	105	105	105	105	0	0
106	106	106	106	106	0	0
107	107	107	107	107	0	0
108	108	108	108	108	0	0
109	109	109	109	109	0	0
110	110	110	110	110	0	0
111	111	111	111	111	0	0
112	112	112	112	112	0	0
113	113	113	113	113	0	0
114	114	114	114	114	0	0
115	115	115	115	115	0	0
116	116	116	116	116	0	0
117	117	117	117	117	0	0
118	118	118	118	118	0	0
119	119	119	119	119	0	0
120	120	120	120	120	0	0

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES
Equities bounce back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 6. Dealings end April 24. Contango day April 27. Settlement day May 5.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks, volumes are on page 28.

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	%	Div
100	100	100	100	100	0	0
101	101	101	101	101	0	0
102	102	102	102	102	0	0
103	103	103	103	103	0	0
104	104	104	104	104	0	0
105	105	105	105	105	0	0
106	106	106	106	106	0	0
107	107	107	107	107	0	0
108	108	108	108	108	0	0
109	109	109	109	109	0	0
110	110	110	110	110	0	0
111	111	111	111	111	0	0
112	112	112	112	112	0	0
113	113	113	113	113	0	0
114	114	114	114	114	0	0
115	115	115	115	115	0	0
116	116	116	116	116	0	0
117	117	117	117	117	0	0
118	118	118	118	118	0	0
119	119	119	119	119	0	0
120	120	120	120	120	0	0

BREWERIES

406	291	365	339	+42	14.5	24	16.8
407	291	365	339	+42	14.5	24	16.8
171	171	171	171	0	0	0	0
172	172	172	172	0	0	0	0
173	173	173	173	0	0	0	0
174	174	174	174	0	0	0	0
175	175	175	175	0	0	0	0
176	176	176	176	0	0	0	0
177	177	177	177	0	0	0	0
178	178	178	178	0	0	0	0
179	179	179	179	0	0	0	0
180	180	180	180	0	0	0	0
181	181	181	181	0	0	0	0
182	182	182	182	0	0	0	0
183	183	183	183	0	0	0	0
184	184	184	184	0	0	0	0
185	185	185	185	0	0	0	0
186	186	186	186	0	0	0	0
187	187	187	187	0	0	0	0
188	188	188	188	0	0	0	0
189	189	189	189	0	0	0	0
190	190	190	190	0	0	0	0
191	191	191	191	0	0	0	0
192	192	192	192	0	0	0	0
193	193	193	193	0	0	0	0
194	194	194	194	0	0	0	0
195	195	195	195	0	0	0	0
196	196	196	196	0	0	0	0
197	197	197	197	0	0	0	0
198	198	198	198	0	0	0	0
199	199	199	199	0	0	0	0
200	200	200	200	0	0	0	0
201	201	201	201	0	0	0	0
202	202	202	202	0	0	0	0
203	203	203	203	0	0	0	0
204	204	204	204	0	0	0	0
205	205	205	205	0	0	0	0
206	206	206	206	0	0	0	0
207	207	207	207	0	0	0	0
208	208	208	208	0	0	0	0
209	209	209	209	0	0	0	0
210	210	210	210	0	0	0	0
211	211	211	211	0	0	0	0
212	212	212	212	0	0	0	0
213	213	213	213	0	0	0	0
214	214	214	214	0	0	0	0
215	215	215	215	0	0	0	0
216	216	216	216	0	0	0	0
217	217	217	217	0	0	0	0
218	218	218	218	0	0	0	0
219	219	219	219	0	0	0	0
220	220	220	220	0	0	0	0
221	221	221	221	0	0	0	0
222	222	222	222	0	0	0	0
223	223	223	223	0	0	0	0
224	224	224	224	0	0	0	0
225	225	225	225	0	0	0	0
226	226	226	226	0	0	0	0
227	227	227	227	0	0	0	0
228	228	228	228	0	0	0	0
229	229	229	229	0	0	0	0
230	230	230	230	0	0	0	0
231	231	231	231	0	0	0	0
232	232	232	232	0	0	0	0
233	233	233	233	0	0	0	0
234	234	234	234	0	0	0	0
235	235	235	235	0	0	0	0
236	236	236	236	0	0	0	0
237	237	237	237	0	0	0	0
238	238	238	238	0	0	0	0
239	239	239	239	0	0	0	0
240	240	240	240	0	0	0	0
241	241	241	241	0	0	0	0
242	242	242	242	0	0	0	0
243	243	243	243	0	0	0	0
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247	247	247	247	0	0	0	0
248	248	248	248	0	0	0	0
249	249	249	249	0	0	0	0
250	250	250	250	0	0	0	0
251	251	251	251	0	0	0	0
252	252	252	252	0	0	0	0
253	253	253	253	0	0	0	0
254	254	254	254	0	0	0	0
255	255	255	255	0	0	0	0
256	256	256	256	0	0	0	0
257	257	257	257	0	0	0	0
258	258	258	258	0	0	0	0
259	259	259	259	0	0	0	0
260	260	260	260	0	0	0	0
261	261	261	261	0	0	0	0
262	262	262	262	0	0	0	0
263	263	263	263	0	0	0	0
264	264	264	264	0	0	0	0
265	265	265	265	0	0	0	0
266	266	266	266	0	0	0	0
267	267	267	267	0	0	0	0
268	268	268	268	0	0	0	0
269	269	269	269	0	0	0	0
270	270	270	270	0	0	0	0
271	271	271	271	0	0	0	0
272	272	272	272	0	0	0	0
273	273	273	273	0	0	0	0
274	274	274	274	0	0	0	0
275	275	275	275	0	0	0	0
276	276	276	276	0	0	0	0
277	277	277	277	0	0	0	0
278	278	278	278	0	0	0	0
279	279	279	279	0	0	0	0
280	280	280	280	0	0	0	0
281	281	281	281	0	0	0	0
282	282	282	282	0	0	0	0
283	283	283	283	0	0	0	0
284	284	284	284	0	0	0	0
285	285	285	285	0	0	0	0
286	286	286	286	0	0	0	0
287	287	287	287	0	0	0	0
288	288	288	288	0	0	0	0
289	289	289	289	0	0	0	0
290	290	290	290	0	0	0	0
291	291	291	291	0	0	0	0
292	292	292	292	0	0	0	0
293	293	293	293	0	0	0	0
294	294	294	294	0	0	0	0
295	295	295	295	0	0	0	0
296	296	296	296	0	0	0	0
297	297	297	297	0	0	0	0
298	298	298	298	0	0	0	0
299	299	299	299	0	0	0	0
300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0

April 16, 1987

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Everyone who is advertising in these pages has a problem. It's a problem that very many managers would be very pleased to have, but a problem nevertheless — not enough high-quality employees to service a growing organization.

For business located in the South-East of England the difficulties are familiar enough. A successful company means more business and this results in more pressure, increasing salaries, high staff turnover and a real danger of being unable to service clients and to meet orders. A radical solution is needed and relocation could well be an easier solution than many people think.

It is fairly well known that development areas such as ours offer substantial grants to companies planning a move and there is a great temptation for people in my position to talk only about development grants and the idea of moving to a development area purely, as it were, on price. But I believe that areas such as Northern Ireland would be good places in which to locate a business even if there were no financial inducements at all.

Of course, Northern Ireland

does have one special problem. The troubles have given the region an image of unrest but it is hard to appreciate until you visit the province that these problems are very localized and have not impinged significantly on the business environment or the economic opportunity that the region offers. In fact, at a time when crime rates are rising throughout the UK, the level of violence and crime in Northern Ireland — which includes terrorist incidents — is well below the national average.

Then there is the misconception about the nature of unemployed people that suggests that some of those who are out of work are for some reason unemployable.

The experience in Ulster, however, would not be untypical of other development areas. We have the legacy of textile and clothing industries where workers have a level of skill and dexterity that has adapted particularly well to high-technology manufacturing. This is a potential labour force with a real sense of responsibility and a desire to forge a loyal relationship with a good employer.

All the development areas have a basic surplus of labour. In Northern Ireland, where unemployment has been particularly

John Dowdall: The unrest has had little effect on Ulster's opportunities

The development areas can offer as much in lifestyle advantages as in economic benefits



John Dowdall is deputy chief executive of the Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland

high, we have had to pay particular attention to training workers in those skills most needed by employers and in having the basic training facilities in place to be able to respond flexibly to the requirements of incoming employers.

It is particularly significant that we actually have a surplus in computing and engineering and most of them are keen to stay in Northern Ireland. With a population of only 1.5 million, we have 17,000 students and every year we produce 650 graduates in computing and engineering, far in excess

of the demand for local industry. Many of these graduates do, of course, leave the province for mainland Britain or even further afield, but Northern Ireland people value their way of life and their families. The development areas of the UK have just as much to offer in terms of lifestyle advantages as they can offer by way of cost and productivity advantages.

Here, too, Northern Ireland is no exception. House prices are less than half those in the London suburbs but are still rising in a healthy market. This means that a

manager in the Home Counties with a modest semi could typically find himself living in a substantial detached home with half an acre of land in pleasant countryside. Still a good investment but a first-class environment for a family.

And this brings us to the subject of schools. Briefly, the statistics are that the pupil-teacher ratio is 15-1; 21 per cent of children go on to further or higher education (the figure is 13 per cent on the mainland); and up to 30 per cent of children pass the 11-plus, an examination that has been retained.

As the economic recovery in the UK is sustained, more firms will be facing the question of how best to expand their capacity. We in the development areas will help a business develop by almost every means possible other than moving ourselves. We like it too much where we are and think a lot of industrialists would as well, once they know the real facts.

A region such as Northern Ireland offers marvellously convenient opportunities for outdoor leisure, especially yachting, fishing and golf, and Belfast itself has been transformed in recent years with restaurants, shops and a cultural life every bit as good as you would expect from a major provincial city.

So we think the attractions of development areas such as ours are considerable before we even raise the subject of financial incentives. But if a financial reason is also needed we have a package that is better than any other in the UK and probably the rest of Europe as well — 50 per cent capital grants, 100 per cent factory rental exemption, no rates on industrial premises and help with research and development and marketing are just a few of its components.

As the economic recovery in the UK is sustained, more firms will be facing the question of how best to expand their capacity. We in the development areas will help a business develop by almost every means possible other than moving ourselves. We like it too much where we are and think a lot of industrialists would as well, once they know the real facts.

Appointments Phone: 01-481 4481

Appointments Phone: 01-481 4481

SPECTRUM GEOPHYSICAL SERVICES

Spectrum Geophysical Services is expanding its seismic data acquisition and processing divisions and is seeking new field and programming staff.

GEOPHYSICAL OBSERVERS (LAND)

All categories from instrument engineer/senior observer to junior observer are required. A working knowledge of Sercel SN-368 and/or Geosource MDS-10 and MDS-16 recording systems is considered essential.

GEOPHYSICAL PROGRAMMERS

This position involves supporting and integrating new seismic software into Disco's 2D and 3D data processing package. Suitable candidates should have a good working knowledge of Disco and be able to adapt to working on a Convex XP2 vector computer.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMERS

These candidates are required to install Spectrum's proprietary software on customers' computer systems. A suitable candidate should have experience working with Fortran 77 under Unix or VMS operating systems. Foreign travel will be involved.

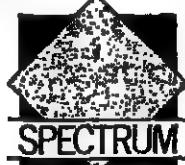
DATA PROCESSING GEOPHYSICISTS

We require processing geophysicists with between 2 and 8 years experience, from both land and marine data processing environments. The successful candidates will have a sound understanding of signal processing techniques and be able to demonstrate a high level of self motivation. Knowledge of VSP processing techniques would be an advantage.

The above positions will carry competitive salaries, along with the normal fringe benefits. Success will be rewarded.

Please send applications, with full detailed CV to:

The Personnel Officer
Spectrum Energy and Information Technology Limited
Spectrum House, 56 Goldsworth Road
Woking, Surrey GU21 1LQ



Spectrum Geophysical Services is a division of Spectrum Energy and Information Technology Limited

"Expand your career plans within a developing environment"

Based: Manchester

Campbell's UK, part of the International Campbell's Group, has two challenging and rewarding posts to offer at its new multi-million pound frozen food plant. The plant incorporates the very latest in sophisticated technology and will spearhead the Company's continued expansion into UK and European food markets.

PLANNING MANAGER c.£17,500 + car

Reporting to the Operations Director, you will have total responsibility for both production planning and materials control at the new plant. You will be required to incorporate the principles of JIT wherever practicable, by maintaining minimum inventory levels and ensuring that information from key areas is effectively translated into forward plans. This is an excellent opportunity for a graduate with 6/7 years planning and/or production experience in a food or f.m.c.g. environment.

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Albright & Wilson Limited, Albright & Wilson House, P.O. Box 3, Hagley Road West, Oldbury, Warrley, West Midlands B68 0YN.

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MARS ELECTRONICS

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Closing Date: 13th May, 1987
BRIAN HILL,
Clerk to the Police Committee
County Hall
PRESTON



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Trainee Broker for Europe's leading brokerage, dealing directly with clients. Full professional training given. Profile should be 22-25 with unusual degree of ambition. Substantial package through training to subsequent management.

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SHOW THEM HOW TO DO IT!

An international organisation is launching a new product range, for larger customers. It needs experienced salespeople to help them in London, Thames Valley, Birmingham/Manchester, and Glasgow.

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This is an opportunity to get in on the ground floor, with exciting prospects. There is a good remuneration package, and normal large company benefits. The client is in the reprographic field.



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COMMODITY BROKERS
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Brokerage house looking for people from varied sales background eg. copier, fax, finance sales.

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DO YOU WANT TO EARN BETWEEN £15,000 AND £30,000 PER YEAR?

THE LOCALITIES
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Involves dealing with existing and potential customers in one of these localities. The majority of your time will be spent between converting leads into first order enquiries and securing new business accounts.

THE REMUNERATION
Will be initially in excess of £15,000 per year if you achieve our minimum sales targets. The on-target earnings will rise rapidly as you progress up our Salary/Quota structure.

THE REQUIREMENTS
Are that you have to be between 25 and 40 and own a car. It is also essential that you have the enthusiasm, confidence, resilience and determination to build yourself a career or successfully tackle a fresh challenge. Without these requirements you will be wasting your time and ours by applying.

THE PREPARATION
Involves an immediate interview to allow us to find out about each other. If successful, you will then be given a comprehensive residential training followed by in-field training. The first step you have to take is to write today and tell us about your background, including age and present earnings to:

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COWAN

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

(London Based)

We are manufacturers of quality office furniture and supply some of the top companies in the UK.

In line with our expansion programme which includes the launching of new ranges we are looking for experienced sales personnel to join our sales team, setting to the end user.

If you are looking to advance your career, are between 25 and 35, with drive, initiative and the ability to negotiate at all levels we would like to meet you.

Please write to Roger Morton at:
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722-724 Wick Lane, Bow, London E3 2SS.

A member of the Blue Line Group of Companies.

PROPERTY SALES PERSON - ALGARVE

Required for top luxury resort. Proven sales record desirable. Pleasant disposition, assertiveness and initiative essential. Ideal candidate will be aged between 25-35 and available for immediate start. Single person's accommodation and excellent working conditions included in package. Full C.V. and recent photograph to Vale do Lobo, 31a St George Street, London W1R 9FA. Details to arrive no later than 23rd April. Please ensure daytime contact number is quoted.

MEDIA ADVERTISING AGENCY

Central London, seeks Creative Writers. Must be articulate with confidence to negotiate on behalf of clients, agencies and advertising media.

Please send CV to Box 646 c/o The Times.

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TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

E-Z-EM Limited is the wholly owned subsidiary of its US parent, E-Z-EM Inc. and is the marketing and sales organisation for a wide range of diagnostic products for radiology and other disciplines.

As a result of strategic restructuring, we are developing our own sales force which will be supported by our long established and successful distribution arrangements with Henleys Medical Supplies Limited. The market for E-Z-EM products, composed principally of barium sulphate preparations and accessories for radiology is already well established. We are looking for successful and determined salesmen or women to constitute this position and to spearhead our expansion into new product areas.

You will have a proven track record in medical product sales and you are between 25 and 35 years of age. We require three representatives based in the North, Midlands and South of England.

Please write in confidence enclosing a full CV and explaining why you think you are suitable for these challenging vacancies, to David Wills, Sales & Marketing Manager.

E-Z-EM Limited
19 Charendon Road
London N8 0DD



Trade Association EXPORT PROMOTIONS EXECUTIVE

c.£16,000

GAMBICA, the Association for the Instrumentation, Control and Automation Industry in the UK requires a Senior Executive to develop its export promotion activity and to assist in the provision of services to member companies.

A major responsibility will be to establish, through consultation with member companies, an export marketing programme involving exhibitions, missions and seminars, often on a joint venture basis with the B018. The servicing of some GAMBICA Committees is a further requirement.

Candidates aged 30+ must be self-reliant with sound administrative and diplomatic capabilities. The ability to communicate effectively is essential. Experience within instrumentation industry and knowledge of export procedures would be advantageous.

Send full CV quoting present salary to:
Mr G C Young,
GAMBICA, 8 Leicester Street, London WC2H 7BN

EXPORT SALES MANAGER

An Export Sales Manager is required for a leading furnishing fabric and wall paper wholesaler based in London SW18. Applicants must have experience of marketing luxury goods to sophisticated export customers and possess detailed knowledge of European, North American, Far Eastern and Australian markets gained from visits to textile wholesalers and retailers.

Fluent French, one other European language, and a sound knowledge of export/import documentation and finance are essential.

Salary c.£11,000.

In the first instance please write enclosing your c.v. to:

Miss Penny Reed,
Colefax & Fowler Ltd.
39 Brook Street,
London W1T 2JE.

RENTAL NEGOTIATOR

required to join small lively office. Must have sound knowledge of residential market, plenty of drive, ambition and personality. Good basic and commission plus car. Excellent prospect.

Call Mrs. James on 01-731 4448

SENIOR SALES NEGOTIATOR

sought by expanding agency North of the River. The successful applicant should be ambitious and fully experienced in the residential market, and able to motivate small but lively sales team. Excellent basic for right person plus generous commission and car.

Call Mrs. James on 01-731 4448

ENGINEERING

Marketing Executives

Computer Field Maintenance Limited, Britain's largest independent third party maintenance company, have two vacancies in their Marketing Department for computer engineers to assist in long term business development and future sales strategy. These posts are based at our Head Office in Hitchin.

Applicants must have extensive experience in computer, terminal or network maintenance, preferably gained in a field or sales support role. The ability to communicate with senior management is essential.

CFM offers competitive salaries, a company car, annual profit related bonus and a non-contributory pension scheme.

Please write to:

Mr M. Gaherty,
Director—Marketing & Projects,
Computer Field Maintenance Limited,
Trust Industrial Estate,
Wilbury Way, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0UZ.



SOUTH EAST WALES c15K

Warner Lambert is one of the premier pharmaceutical companies in the UK, specialising in the manufacture of an extremely diverse range of therapeutic, health-care and hair-care products. Production methods and processes are diverse, utilising sophisticated equipment and techniques to maintain a leading technological edge within the industry. The industrial engineering function is cornerstone to a programme of ongoing development towards maximising operating efficiency. Aged over 30 with a graduate level qualification, you will have a solid grounding in modern approaches to industrial engineering, a creative and innovative approach and experience of highly automated manufacturing processes. In addition you will be a lateral thinker and have the ability to sell your ideas to line-management.

The initial salary package will include assistance with relocation to a most beautiful part of the country which combines an ideal living environment with refreshingly realistic house prices. Please send your c.v. to Victoria Iles, Elite Advertising & Selection, The Old Chapel, Harfield Common, Bristol BS7 0BJ. Or alternatively telephone (0272) 522590.



Continued on next page

NEWMARKET

Selections

By Mandarin

- 2.00 Legal Bid.
2.35 Domus.
3.10 AJDAL (nap).
3.40 Gulfand.
4.10 Start-Rite.
4.40 Greens Masterpiece.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

- 2.00 Legal Bid.
2.35 DOMUS (nap).
3.10 Ajdal.
3.40 Gulfand.
4.10 Start-Rite.
4.40 Native Knight.

By Michael Seely

- 2.00 Incinerator. 2.35 GUN RULE (nap). 3.10 Ajdal.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 GULFLAND.

Going: good

Draw: no advantage

2.0 FEILDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £9,208; 1m 1f) (9 runners)

101 (9)	120- ARABIAN SHEIK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	Pat Edlery	59
102 (8)	015- DICK DOCK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	58
103 (7)	015- DICK DOCK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	S. Cawston	57
104 (6)	10- TWENTY 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	NON-RUNNER	56
105 (5)	015- CATHARINE PEAK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	55
106 (4)	015- CATHARINE PEAK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	54
107 (3)	015- CATHARINE PEAK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	53
108 (2)	015- CATHARINE PEAK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	52
109 (1)	015- CATHARINE PEAK 173 (6) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	51

BETTING: 7.4 Legal Bid, 9.2 Arabian Sheik, 13.2 Chesham Squire, 7.1 Incinerator, 15.2 Water Boatman, 10.1 Dry Dock, 12.1 Twentieth, 13.1 Gulfand, 14.1 Start-Rite, 15.1 Native Knight.

1986: FLYING TRIO 9-0 Pat Edlery (3-1) L. Camard 11 m

FORM ARABIAN SHEIK (9-0) was a late discounting in the Doncaster Futurity, but still ran respectably to finish 5th in Reference Point (9-0) (1m group), £24,120, good to fast, Oct 25, 1986.

LEGAL BID (15-1) made a spectacular debut at Nottingham in October beating Thoroughbred (7-1) (1m group), £24,120, good to fast, Oct 25, 1986.

CATHARINE PEAK (15-1) 2nd to Tansley (9-0) in slowly-run race at Ascot (7-1), £24,120, good to fast, Oct 11, 1986.

2.35 REMY MARTIN XO MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O C & G: £3,658; 7f) (20 runners)

201 (19)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	78
202 (18)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	77
203 (17)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	76
204 (16)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	75
205 (15)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	74
206 (14)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	73
207 (13)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	72
208 (12)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	71
209 (11)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	70
210 (10)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	69
211 (9)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	68
212 (8)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	67
213 (7)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	66
214 (6)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	65
215 (5)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	64
216 (4)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	63
217 (3)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	62
218 (2)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	61
219 (1)	0- ANIRAJ 285 (7) (P) Philip J. Dunlop 9-0	W. Carson	60

BETTING: 7.4 Legal Bid, 9.2 Arabian Sheik, 13.2 Chesham Squire, 7.1 Incinerator, 15.2 Water Boatman, 10.1 Dry Dock, 12.1 Twentieth, 13.1 Gulfand, 14.1 Start-Rite, 15.1 Native Knight.

1986: NIGHT OUT PERHAPS 9-0 P. Robinson (4-1) J. Wray 10 m

FORM ANIRAJ (15-1) was one-upped on debut when (9-0) 2nd to Domino (9-0) at Goodwood (9-0), £27,000, good to fast, Jun 10, 1986.

GO HENRI (15-1) was one-upped on debut when (9-0) 2nd to Domino (9-0) at Goodwood (9-0), £27,000, good to fast, Jun 10, 1986.

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Guide to our in-line racecard

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Chance
inspects
market



Favoured Guest masters Joligeneration to win the Wood Ditton Stakes at Newmarket yesterday (Photograph: Ed Byrne)

Noble Minstrel's triumph puts Douieb in dilemma over 2,000

By Michael Seely

Noble Minstrel added further confusion to the 2,000 Guineas picture when romping home by three lengths under top weight in the Ladbrokes European Free Handicap at sunny Newmarket yesterday.

Oliver Douieb, the winning trainer, was repeating his 1983 success with Over The Ocean in this always informative feature.

Starting at 7-1, Noble Minstrel won with complete authority. Alain Badel elected to make every yard of the running and the pair quickened to go clear of Hydraulic Power racing down the hill into The Dip. Midway, who had encountered interference in running, finished like a rocket to take second place, 1½ lengths in front of the favourite.

Badel, based at Chantilly, was recording his first win from three attempts in Britain. "The colt got a bit upset in the paddock," he said. "But he relaxed and settled after a furlong. He won very easily and there was only one horse in it."

Douieb, in his fourth season as a trainer in this country, now finds himself on the horns of a dilemma. "I brought Alain over to give him experience of the Rowley Mile. I'd like to run the colt in the English classic as Britain is now my home. But he is excitable and might not like the long parade. I shall have to see how he is and then choose between the 2,000 and the Prix d'Essai des Pouliches."

Noble Minstrel was a more than useful two-year-old having been first past the post in the Criterion at Maisons-Laffitte last autumn, subsequently being disqualified after traces of a prohibited substance had been found in a sample.

Talking about Midway, Henry Cecil said: "He was unlucky not to have finished closer and is an obvious possibility for the Guineas."

Commenting on the running of Hydraulic Power, Lester Piggott said: "My colt was a bit rusty but it was still disappointing. However, there is no doubt that the winner is a good horse."

All eyes will now be focused on Ajdal in this afternoon's Craven Stakes. He remains favourite for the Guineas at 5-2 with Ladbrokes, who offer 10-1 against Noble Minstrel and Don't Forget Me with Risk Me 12-1.

The first of the colts' classics still remains a possible target for Joligeneration after Guy Harwood's heavily-backed favourite had been beaten by Favourite Guest in the Wood Ditton Stakes.

Earlier in the day Willie Jarvis had shown us a high-class filly in the making when Note Book had beaten Jannubi in the Stewards' Stakes. "This could be a top sprinter," said the trainer. "I reckon she's the best I've had so far." Note Book is owned and was bred by Mrs Doris Allen, for whom the Jarvis family have been training for 40 years.

Finally, it was good to see Bill Elsey land a blow for Yorkshire when Pat Eddery drove K-Battery to victory over Chantino in the Earl of Sefton Stakes.

Morgan and Whitaker spike big guns

By Alan Lee

Neither Kevin Morgan nor Richard Whitaker had ever so much as saddled a jumping runner at Ascot until yesterday. Last night, however, they each set off home with a handsome prize after overturning the established order in the day's two valuable novices' chases.

Morgan, who trains in the Leicestershire backwater of Waltham-on-the-Wold, sent out Oyde Hills, runner-up over four miles at the Cheltenham Festival, to win the Royal Fore Novices' Chase over a mile a less, Wetherby-based Whitaker, much better known for his Flat horses, collected the £15,000-added Bolinger Champagne Handicap Chase with Barryphilips Disco, a horse with a vivid past.

The ten-year-old missed all last season after being fired. He returned in January to win a modest Catterick seller but was aimed so low because Whitaker feared his legs might stand only one race. Happily, the horse emerged in good heart and, as his trainer said: "He has not stopped improving since."

Barryphilips Disco was never far off the pace and drew away from the last to win by five lengths. His curious nature is explained by his part-owner, Ian Ender, who runs a travelling discotheque in Leeds.

Whitaker's only previous Ascot winner was the smart sprinting filly, Orient, who will start her next Flat campaign in the Palace House Stakes at Newmarket in a fortnight. He explained: "I've only got three jumpers in the yard and it was tough and go whether I took today's winner to Perth."

Oyde Hills was enterprisingly ridden by amateur Jamie Osborne, pralling by a short head over the last. He was a desperate battle from the last. Morgan, who will now send his winner for the Midlands Grand National, was down to only four horses a few years ago after losing his prize money but he has now rebuilt.

The rest of the meeting belonged to far more familiar characters and brought two milestones within reach. Peter Scudamore rode his 99th winner of the season, while trainer Nick Henderson took his winnings past £195,000 with a fifth success of the campaign for Mandavi.

Scudamore's win on Canford Palm was made far more predictable when the obvious favourite, Boanaza Boy, defected after knocking himself in his box. He will not run again this season.

Canford Palm was the first leg of a double for Fred Winter, whose assistant Charlie Brooks won the hunter chase on Hazy Sunset, but Henderson — who lost his prize money last year — has now rebuilt.

Henderson still has more than 20 horses to run before the end of the season, 12 of whom will turn out over Easter. He will not, however, have a runner in the rich Whitbread Gold Cup at Galway Bay has been put away for the season.

Results from yesterday's four meetings

Newmarket		Ascot		Ripon		Perth	
<p>Goodwood</p> <p>2.0 (1m) 1. NOTEBOOK (B) (Raymond, 5-11.2) 2. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 3. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 4. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 5. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 6. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 7. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 8. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 9. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 10. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 11. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 12. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 13. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 14. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 15. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 16. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 17. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 18. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 19. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 20. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 21. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 22. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 23. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 24. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 25. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 26. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 27. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 28. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 29. Jannubi (J) (Carter, 5-11.2) 30. 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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Jailed for her beliefs: a pacifist in Holloway in the 40 Minutes documentary *Troublesome People* (on BBC2, 9.30pm)

Peace protesters, from the conscientious objectors of the two World Wars to the Greenham women, are surveyed by Caroline Moorehead in *Troublesome People* (BBC2, 9.30pm). The star of the show is 92-year-old Lord Fenner Brockway, who was consigned to the dungeons of the Tower of London and spent much of the First World War in prison sewing mailbags and learning astronomy. Stronger on anecdote than analysis, and trying to cover too much, the programme wonders whether pacifism has had much influence and quotes Bertrand Russell's view that it failed to shorten the First World War by a single day. At least by the 1939 conflict, conscripts were less brutally treated, though there were still camps that refused to serve

them and clergymen prepared to denounce them from the pulpit. When the world snooker championship starts next week Joe Johnson will not exactly start favourite to retain his title. On recent form it would be a near miracle. As related in *An Ordinary Joe* (BBC1, 8.00pm), the past months have been a nightmare for the quiet Yorkshireman as he has battled unsuccessfully with the burdens of fame. His snooker has suffered and despite the luxury home and the Mercedes, he almost wishes he could return to the anonymity of the unsung player who started last year's championship as a 150-1 outsider.

Peter Waymark

Peter Davalle writes: Grantchester rates but a single mention in Katherine Parker's play about Rupert Brooke, *The One Before the Last* (Radio 4, 3.00pm). But the ebullient, joyful and stridently alternate with one another in the deeply nostalgic poem that takes its cue from Grantchester's Old Vicarage have all been adopted by Parker who has added a potent extra one—the bitterness felt by Brooke about his badly bungled love affair with Ka Cox that left him suffering from what the play tellingly describes as syphilis of the soul. The golden boy of British poetry emerges somewhat tarnished from this poignant play, but the tragedy of this bright candle prematurely blown out is not diminished in the dramatization.



Colin Firth as Rupert Brooke: on Radio 4, 3.00pm

VARIATIONS

BBC1 *Wales* 5.30pm-6.00pm Wales Today 5.30-7.00pm *Goodman* 7.00-7.15pm *News and Weather* 7.15-7.30pm *South Atlantic* 7.30-7.45pm *News and Weather* 7.45-8.00pm *Scotland* 8.00-8.15pm *News and Weather* 8.15-8.30pm *The Seven Last Words* 8.30-8.45pm *News and Weather* 8.45-9.00pm *East Coast* 9.00-9.15pm *News and Weather* 9.15-9.30pm *Wales* 9.30-9.45pm *News and Weather* 9.45-10.00pm *England* 10.00-10.15pm *News and Weather* 10.15-10.30pm *Wales* 10.30-10.45pm *News and Weather* 10.45-11.00pm *England* 11.00-11.15pm *News and Weather* 11.15-11.30pm *Wales* 11.30-11.45pm *News and Weather* 11.45-12.00pm *England* 12.00-12.15pm *News and Weather* 12.15-12.30pm *Wales* 12.30-12.45pm *News and Weather* 12.45-1.00pm *England* 1.00-1.15pm *News and Weather* 1.15-1.30pm *Wales* 1.30-1.45pm *News and Weather* 1.45-2.00pm *England* 2.00-2.15pm *News and Weather* 2.15-2.30pm *Wales* 2.30-2.45pm *News and Weather* 2.45-3.00pm *England* 3.00-3.15pm *News and Weather* 3.15-3.30pm *Wales* 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Gestures cost player his job

By a Correspondent

Terry Curran, the Sunderland winger, was sacked by the troubled second division club yesterday following incidents in a reserve team game at Roker Park.

Lawrie McMenemy, Sunderland's managing director, acted after being told how 32-year-old Curran had gestured obscenely to supporters who were barracking him during the match on Tuesday night.

Police later spoke to the player, who could now face a charge of unruly behaviour, while the FA may also take action after receiving the referee's report.

McMenemy's decision ends an unhappy stay at Roker Park for Curran, who has played for 13 clubs in a colourful career. He has not held a regular place in the side since arriving in November and, recently, has been travelling regularly to Yorkshire where his father is seriously ill.

McMenemy said yesterday: "His contract has been cancelled because of his gestures to the crowd, which were unforgivable for a professional. He has to live with the criticism as well as the praise from the terraces."

"I admit there are mitigating circumstances and he is under pressure, but there is absolutely no excuse for abusing our supporters who have paid good money to come and watch."

A police spokesman said: "We were going to question him at the ground, but he voluntarily accompanied an inspector to the police station and helped us with our inquiries into an incident."

"He has been told that he will be reported and the matter will go to the Crown Prosecution Service for a decision on whether there is a case of unruly behaviour to answer."

Meanwhile, McMenemy's assistant, Lew Chatterley, also left the club yesterday. Chatterley had already announced his plans to leave Roker Park in the summer, but chairman Bob Murray believes it would be better if he left now.

Ferguson fine

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has been found guilty of directing foul and abusive comments at referee Ken Baker during the interval of the league match against Luton Town on March 14. He has been fined £500 and warned as to his future conduct and has 14 days to appeal to the FA.

Buxton moves

Mick Buxton, the former Huddersfield Town manager, was yesterday appointed manager of fourth division Scunthorpe United with immediate effect. He takes over from player-manager Richard Money, who wanted to continue at the club just as a player.

Brighton's debts reduced by £1m gift from director

By John Goodbody

Brighton and Hove Albion, bottom of the second division with debts of £1.6 million, yesterday received more than £1 million from a director. Greg Stanley, who is also on the board of a large chain of home decorating stores, it is one of the biggest donations made by an individual in British football.

"I cannot think of any better use of my money than helping the Albion at a time like this," Mr Stanley said last night.

Bryan Bedson, the chairman, said that the club can now go forward on a "solid financial basis. The remaining £600,000 debt will be carried interest-free by the directors."

"Greg has made a tremendous gesture. He is someone who cares deeply about the club. It could not have come at a better time," he said.

When Brighton's reconstituted board of directors took over three years ago, there was an accumulated debt of £960,000. The running loss on the first year was £480,000 and £230,000 on the second year. This season there is expected to be only a slight loss.

Brighton's problem has partly been the interest fees from the bank and building

society, currently running at £150,000 a year. Mr Stanley's munificence has assured that the club, FA Cup Finalists in 1983, do not have to meet any interest charges.

Mr Stanley, who has been a Brighton supporter for over 20 years, added: "If I wanted, I could retire to Jersey, or do other things. I have a young family but I hope in years to come they will turn round and say, 'Our dad is a good 'un'."

In June 1986 Mr Stanley relinquished his post as executive director of A G Stanley Holdings, which operates Fads 220 home decorating stores, to concentrate on his other personal business interests. He has remained a non-executive member of the A G Stanley board.

The company increased its pre-tax profits in 1987 from £2.69m to £3.21m, a rise of 19 per cent.

Gordon Taylor, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) secretary, has averted the threat of a new contract dispute between the Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough and his England Under-21 winger, Franz Carr. Taylor intervened after Carr's father, a taxi driver, contacted

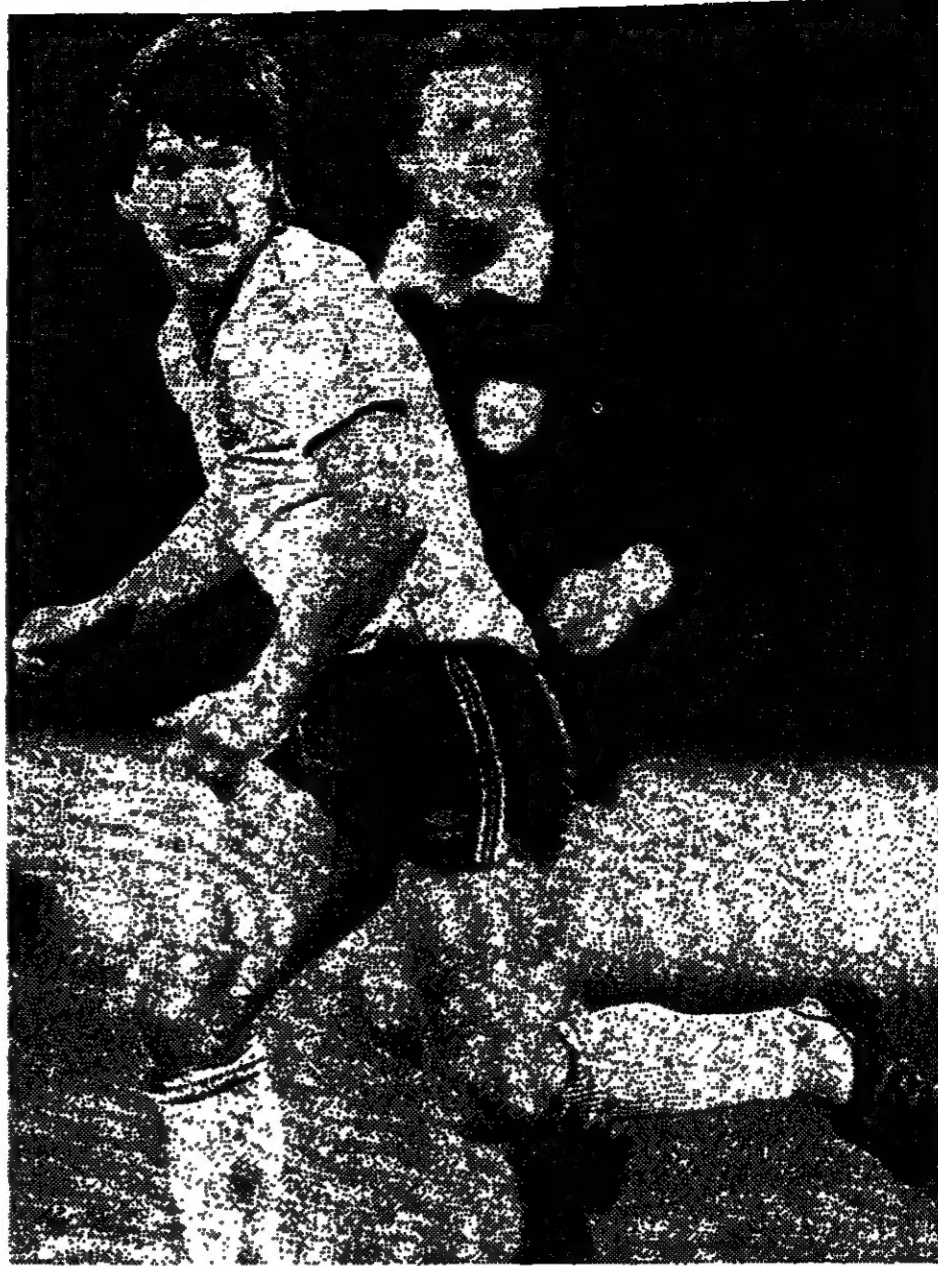
him to complain about the details of the player's new contract.

Carr recently signed a new three-year deal worth £600 a week, despite having been advised by Mr Carr to sign for only two years. Taylor said last night: "I seem to have heard from just about every member of the Carr family except Franz himself."

"As a result of this I have examined the contract. It is clearly for a three year term and is perfectly in order for a player of his age and ability. I am quite sure the player knows exactly what he was doing when he signed it."

The PFA secretary added that he had received every co-operation from Nottingham Forest in examining the complaints of Carr's family. "I have discussed the situation with Brian Clough and he is perfectly happy for the player to come to me but he has not felt it necessary to do so."

Carr was initially in contract dispute with Forest following the intervention of the player's father who felt that his son was being offered inadequate terms. "As a result of my discussions the PFA do not find it necessary to take any action," explained Taylor.



Bracewell: had been considering retirement after 15 months of injury worries

£15m appeal to save Chelsea

By Andrew Longmore

Before two Government ministers, Dick Tracy and David Mellor, and backed by Sebastian Coe and Sir Richard Attenborough, ardent Chelsea supporters, Ken Bates, the chairman, yesterday unveiled a £15 million package aimed at keeping Stamford Bridge from the property developers and turning it instead into a community-based stadium of the 21st century.

But there is a huge catch — much of the money for the project must come out of the supporters' pockets. Based on current support, that could mean about £1,000 per supporter. The twin towers of this mammoth fund-raising effort

over the next two years will be the Chelsea Community Trust and the club's own Save the Bridge appeal.

"It's always said that charity begins at home; well, now is the time for the thousands of Chelsea supporters all over the country to prove that they want Chelsea to stay at Stamford Bridge," Bates said in announcing the charity trust. "The Lord helps those who help themselves."

But David Bulstode, the chairman of Marler Estates, the owners, although confirming he would be willing to sell to Chelsea, believes the club will need to raise considerably more than £15 million. "The ground was valued at £17½

million last year and prices have risen considerably since," he said. "Anyway, I doubt if Chelsea can raise even this sum this year."

The aim of the trust is to purchase the freehold of the 11-acre site, which will then be leased back to the club for 125 years and to build a community recreation centre, with a 160-room hotel on top of it, at the south end of the ground behind the Shed.

Bates and Sir Richard Attenborough, the Community Trust's patron, between them share 25 per cent in SB Properties, the subsidiary of Marler. That share of the sale will go towards the trust fund. An additional sum will be

raised by selling off five acres for property development, which leaves an estimated quarter cost of the purchase coming from private donations and fund-raising. So far, for example, the price for the land was agreed at £1 million an acre, cheap by current standards, an estimated £5 million would be raised by selling off five acres. £2½ million from the sale of shares in SB Properties, leaving a shortfall of £3¼ million to be raised by the Trust.

In addition, the Save the Bridge Appeal needs at least £10 million to turn the Bridge into an all-covered stadium with a capacity of 40,000 and seating for 27,000. The plans include a new West Stand, the redevelopment of the North Stand and a new look Shed with seats and terracing for 7,000.

The target date for raising the £15m is August 1988 when the club's lease runs out. According to Bates, the starting date for the development of the ground will be either the summer of 1988 or 1989, depending on the success in fund-raising and negotiations.

Colin Hutchinson, who recently resigned as chief executive of Wimbledon because of proposals to redevelop Plough Lane, will coordinate the fund-raising. He plans a programme of lotteries, boxing and greyhound nights, with a "big event" at the start of next season which, he estimates, will raise over £3m.

Bracewell is ready to resume career

Fears that Paul Bracewell, the Everton midfielder, may have been forced to quit the game through injury were

alayed yesterday. The England international received an encouraging diagnosis on his badly damaged ankle and is ready to pick up the threads of a career which has been shrouded in doubt for 15 months.

Bracewell, a key figure in the resurrection of the Merseyside club over the past three years, has undergone surgery on four occasions since being injured on New Year's Day, 1986. He has suffered numerous setbacks and breakdowns in training and confessed he had been harbouring thoughts of a premature retirement.

But yesterday's verdict will come as sweet relief for a player who has not made a senior appearance since last season's FA Cup final and who was included in England's shadow squad before the World Cup finals in Mexico.

"Paul has had the plaster removed from his ankle and will not be putting any weight on it for quite a while. He will be taking things very easy to try and ensure that there is a complete recovery," Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, said.

Howard Wilkinson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, has set his team a target of 50 points for survival in the

first division and, if they are to achieve it, three of their last seven matches will have to be won.

Wednesday's plight is all the more serious since they were in fifth place before the Christmas programme, yet Wilkinson, usually an avid analyst of the whys and wherefores of football, can find no cogent reason for the slide which has put his team at risk.

"To look for answers is like being in a leaky lifeboat in the middle of the ocean and trying to work out why the ship sank when what you're really got to do is get hold of a tin and start bailing," Wilkinson said after his side had conceded two goals in the last 10 minutes to lose at home to Nottingham Forest.

The likely absence of Kenny Sansom, the Arsenal captain, for the rest of the season through injury has opened the door to the younger generation of would-be England left fullbacks. Sansom has been the only No. 3 in Bobby Robson's last two England squads. He was unchallenged during the World Cup campaign and has won 75 international caps.

For several months he has been troubled by a deep stomach strain and, after resting him twice recently, the Arsenal manager, George Graham, has confirmed that he is now unlikely to play again this season.

Looking for a happy medium

By Colin McQuillan

The many and disparate parties, some of them within BBC Television itself, who have struggled for years to put international squash rackets on the small screen must have thrown up their hands in despair on Tuesday evening. Then, all too rigid application of the BBC's guidelines on advertising infuriated Hi-Tec, sponsors of the British Open Championships, to the point of making the company consider withdrawing their annual £100,000 from the event.

Hi-Tec were in the second year of a three-year sponsorship contract with another three-year option to follow. They went to Wembley knowing they would be involved in some negotiation over advertising inside the transparent Perspex showcourt.

They took with them four different promotional placards, the least obvious of which carried the title "British Open" over their company's red flash logo. BBC Television refused to record the semi-finals and the finals of the event until the red flashes were taped over in white. After much wrangling and recriminations on all sides, the matches were recorded for transmission on Sunday and Monday with what the sponsors regarded as less than adequate commercial exposure.

Happy balance can be struck

According to John Phillips, the editor of BBC Sport and a long-time supporter of televised squash, the Corporation's guidelines insist upon coverage of sports events being arranged so that the main static camera view, the master shot, contains no blatant advertising.

In most sports the master shot is mildly variable and dependent upon local production priorities, although other court games like tennis and badminton carry obvious limitations, as does snooker. Squash is unfortunate in television terms because the master shot over the back wall is also the established view of the game, encompassing the entire playing area and including the traditional sponsors' promotional slot on the 19-inch "tin" at the bottom of the front wall, the only portion of a squash court which is not part of the playing area. Virtually every squash court in the world carries some sort of promotional material on the tin.

All around the globe professional squash is now played on transparent courts which cost upwards of £75,000 each and were developed at considerable cost by plastics and glass manufacturers specifically in pursuit of television coverage.

Phillips himself believes that viewers should be protected from blatant commercial exposure but accepts that a balance can be struck to ensure that sport attracts the commercial sponsorship it now needs to survive. "The BBC guidelines are drawn in that context," he says.

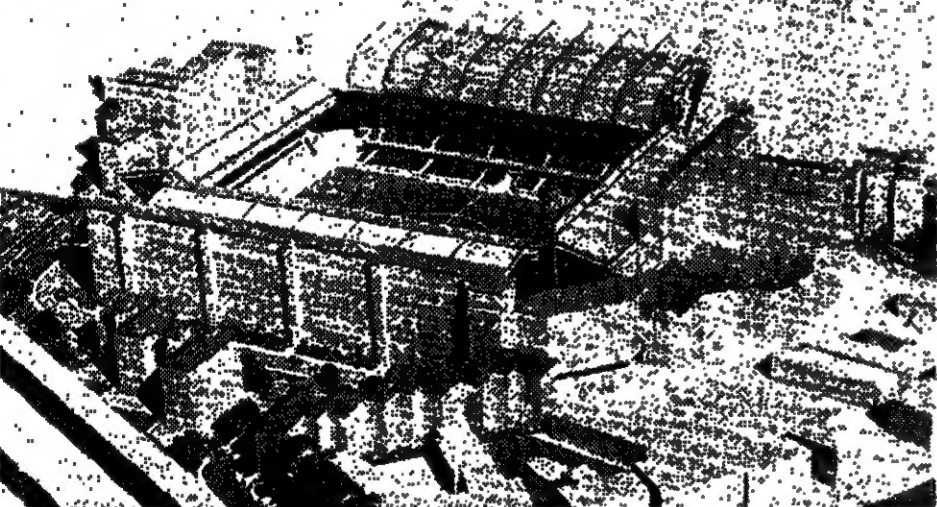
Backing sponsors into a corner

There is, however, a received wisdom abroad in the higher management levels of British television which states that squash can never be successfully televised. Phillips and other BBC enthusiasts have long argued against this, sometimes it is said at some risk to their own positions. "We spent hours on the new permanent transparent court at Cannons Club in London with Dunlop's reflective ball people to perfect our lighting technique for the British Open," says Phillips. "I am satisfied the results will show on Sunday and Monday that we have finally beaten the problem of ball visibility."

Dunlop's squash marketing director, Gordon Baird, says some small but significant changes were made to the reflective ball as a result of the Cannons Club experiments. "The changes helped the BBC to light the ball and, incidentally, improved its playing characteristics a little," Baird says. "It was a very useful co-operation of technical people. The same ball is officially adopted for the next world championships in London in November, which the BBC is also televising."

"It does seem inexplicable, after months of such close co-operation between so many different people and organizations, that a major sponsor is backed into an impossible position because he cannot be even a small part of the success he is paying for."

Simon Barnes, page 40
Young pretenders, page 40



Model plan: The prospective outlay for Stamford Bridge if Chelsea can raise the cash

McEnroe prefers Edinburgh

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

John McEnroe confirmed yesterday that he would be joining Ivan Lendl in the Scottish grass court tennis championships at Edinburgh from June 6-14 rather than the rival Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club.

McEnroe's amicable association with Queen's Club and the tournament — he played in seven finals there between 1978 and 1984, winning four — was soured two years ago after he used bad language to women members who had booked the court on which he was practising. He lost his honorary membership.

For what it is worth, he is reported to be playing at Edinburgh simply because, as a preparation for Wimbledon, he prefers it to the hackneyed routine of a week-long grand prix tournament. Doubtless McEnroe and Lendl are also hoping that, during the approach to Wimbledon, the environment of Edinburgh will be less of a strain on the nerves than the widely publicised Queen's Club tournament.

They may reasonably be expected to reach the singles final for which the prize is £30,000 compared to £25,000 at Queen's. Their main challengers will probably be Andrei Chesnokov, though one or two more celebrities may yet be induced to take part.

Like the other leading men engaged for this unusual assignment McEnroe will play at least three matches. The format, unfamiliar in Britain, will grant six men exemption until the quarter-final round. From that point onwards losers will play off to decide positions from third to eighth.

Davies breaks through in Japan

Laura Davies, Britain's leading woman professional golfer, has broken through the Japanese trade barrier. Miss Davies, who has led the rankings in Europe for the past two years, has signed a \$100,000 (about £61,000) sponsorship deal with the Maruman golf equipment company.

Under the arrangement, Miss Davies, aged 23, from

Surrey, is committed to three tournament appearances a year in Japan, where she is playing for the next two weeks.

The British Open champion ties up in the Tokushima tournament this week followed by the Nasu Ogawa event. She will return to Japan for three more tournaments in October and November.

Colin Snape, the former PGA executive director who represents Miss Davies, said: "The Japanese are prepared to trade if they feel there is quality in the product, and Laura is a quality golfer."

Miss Davies will continue to represent Scottish Equitable while playing in Britain but the Maruman deal is on a worldwide basis.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tough for champion

Despite his outburst last week when he threatened to retire if he could be matched against the new World Boxing Council middleweight champion, Sugar Ray Leonard, Lloyd Honeyghan, the world welterweight champion — who defends his title against Maurice Blocker at the Albert Hall on Saturday — is unlikely to carry out his ultimatum according to his manager, Micky Duff.

"Lloyd has since admitted that what he said was on the spur of the moment and he has retracted it," said Duff. "Like anyone else he can suffer from nerves and frustration."

Lucky break

Snooker received another £1 million boost yesterday when Mercantile Credit announced that they are to spend a seven-figure sum on a three-year extension of their sponsorship of the annual tournament named after the company.

Trios rewarded

Caroline Gable, Alison Kindon and Ian McCaig, who all set British junior records last weekend, head the England youth squad of 27 for the seven-nation swimming international at Crystal Palace on Saturday and Sunday. All three have found top form at the right time.

SQUAD: C Gable (Stockport Moor), A Kindon (City of Birmingham), I McCaig (Barnet and Bodley), L Bates (Southend), N Bates (Northwich Pergum), T Drey (Porthsmouth Horwath), J Dwyer (Luton), J Japan (Kawase), J Lanes (Lancaster Waters of Warrington), K Seal (Worcester), K Wadsworth (New Cornforth), J Wright (City of Chester), S Allen (Swansea), S Greenfield (Salford Tripe St), J Le (Letchworth), M Nelson (Aston Central), P Pedder (Rochdale), R Rivington (Rochdale), T Evans (York College), S Fry (Salford Tripe St), D Galtland (Epsom and Chertsey), A Hendrick (New Cornforth), J Thompson (Borley City), S Wainwright (Milton), G Galtland (City of Saltsfield), M O'Connor (City of Manchester).

Flying high

British Midland Airways have come flying in to ensure that the Royal Scottish Automobile Club (RSAC) motor rally will continue with a two-year sponsorship. The RSAC planned to go ahead with the rally, which starts in Glasgow on June 13, without sponsorship.

Open boost

The future of the Open championship at Muirfield, this year's venue, has been secured. The Open's organizers, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, have bought 59 acres of farmland next to the 9th hole at Muirfield to guarantee parking spaces during the Open for up to 7,000 cars.

Triple target

Prize money for this season's Trusthouse Forte PGA seniors golf championship has been increased to £30,000. Neil Coles will be looking for a third successive victory at Coventry on June 18 to 21, having won on his seniors debut at Pannal in 1985 and at Mere last year. Brian Huggan, who reached 50 last November, qualifies and other former Ryder Cup golfers, Peter Butler, Hugh Boyle and Christy O'Connor are also expected to take part.



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